

# **Codsall Parish Council**

## **Minutes**

**Finance Committee Meeting**  
Held at the Parish Council Chambers on  
**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2016 at 7.00 p.m.**

**Cllr Marshall proposed Cllr Holland as Chairman of the Finance Committee this was seconded by Cllr Barrow, no other nominations were received, the meeting unanimously agreed.**

**Present:** Councillors B Holland (Chair), Mrs M Barrow, Mrs V Chapman, T Jeavons, R Marshall, and Mrs C Millar

1. Apologies – none.
2. A draft Precept/Budget for 2016/17 and the Clerks Summary were received and considered. The Finance Committee made the following recommendations:

### **Expenditure**

#### **Salary**

The Minimum Wage Rate will increase from £6.70 to £7.20 in April 2016.

This increase will



In view of the change to the Minimum Wage Rate, as well as changes to Pension Regulations, the Finance Committee recommend that an increase of £5,600.00 to the wages budget; this will increase the wages budget from £67,000 to £72,600.00.

The increase will enable the Parish Council to maintain the wage rate



The wages budget for 2016/17 will still be lower than in 2011/12 when council wages were at £77,000.00.

### **Office**

Proposed reduction to the office budget of £1,000.00 from £17,000.00 to £16,000.00 – the reduction will help assist in funding the increase to the wage budget.

However a very tight budget will have to be maintained, considering that a third of the office budget goes on the Parish Councils liability Insurance. Liability Insurance is likely to increase in 2016/17, with the addition of the Wheel Field and other projects and the recent flooding within other parts of the country.

The Parish Office will as usual try to obtain better value in services/purchases. The Parish Office has negotiated better gas and electricity prices for 2016/17 which should cover half of the suggested office budget reduction.

### **Land Maintenance**

The Open Spaces Committee has requested an increase to the Land Maintenance budget, as they have a number of projects in mind. The list of projects submitted have been estimated to cost approximately £35,000.00. With land maintenance and repair added, the budget required would be £42,000.00.

To include all of the projects put forward, the land maintenance budget would have to be increased by 64%; this would be unrealistic to realise.

Taking into consideration that the Open Spaces Budget has been increased quite considerably over the last few years (from £18,000.00 in 2011/12 to £27,100.00 in 2015-16) and that the high priority tree works carried out during 2015-16, should mean that less expenditure would be required for tree works during 2016-17. The Finance Committee's recommendation is that the Land Maintenance budget remains the same as last year, at £27,100.00.

Although the Land Maintenance budget has been frozen, it has been estimated that the Open Spaces Committee will still have approximately £15,000.00 to spend on projects - achieving approximately 43% of the Open Spaces Committee's projects that have been put forward.

### **Election Contingency**

Proposed to remain the same at £3,000.00.

### **Christmas Lights**

Proposed to remain the same at £8,000.00 – some additional expenditure will be required this year in updating connections and timers. However the additional expenditure should come within the budget set.

### **Grants and Sponsorships and Community Events**

Proposed to remain the same at £17,450.00.

### **Professional Fees**

Proposed to remain the same at £2,000.00.

## **Reserves**

### **Parish Building Maintenance and Repair**

Recommended that the parish building maintenance/repair reserve remains at £23,500.00.

### **Station Car Parking Reserve**

Recommended that this remains at £15,000.00.

### **Project Contingency Reserve**

Recommended that this remains at £15,000.00.

### **Wheel Field Reserve**

Recommendation that there is no increase to the reserve this year; the budget reserve to remain at £22,500.00.

The reserve set, with the addition of outside grants sought, should enable the final phase of the project to be completed.

## **Precept Recommendation**

### **Budget precept calculation – INCREASE of 0.9%**

In order to meet calculated expenditure in particularly within the wages budget, an increase of 0.9% is recommended - bringing the precept from £144,581.00 in 2015/16 to £145,244.43 for 2016/17; an increase of £0.43p per year on band D rate.

The above recommendation was proposed by Cllr Holland, seconded by Cllr Millar and unanimously agreed by the Finance Committee meeting.