

SHERE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on 10th November 2011 in Tanyard Hall, 30 Station Road, Gomshall at 8.15 p.m.

Present: Councillors R. Andrews, R. Davey, R. Smith, J. Tenner, M. Urban and the Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer Mrs. L. Childs.

Election of Chairman: Mr Andrews was unanimously elected Chairman for this meeting only due to the absence of the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Parish Council.

Apologies for absence – apologies were submitted on behalf of Councillors C. Brooke, D. Hall, R. Newman and S. Nielson.

Declarations of Interest

Mr Andrews declared a personal interest in the consideration of a donation for the Wasp Bus (connected with the organisation of the service) and the Clerk's salary (a family friend).

Mr Urban declared a personal interest in the consideration of a donation for the Wasp Bus (one of the voluntary drivers).

Mr Smith declared a personal interest in the cemetery of St. Mary's Church, Holmbury St. Mary (reserved plot).

Adjournment for the Public to address the Committee – No members of the public were present at the meeting.

Current financial position

Total of bank balances = £172,899.45

Earmarked Reserve balance £94,635.71

General Reserves balance £38,064

RECOMMENDATION - £438 to be transferred from the General Reserves to the Old Fire Station earmarked improvements' account (represents under spend on the 2010/11 budget for the Old Fire Station).

RECOMMENDATION – that £535 be allocated from the General Reserve to help finance the Parish Library project. This will leave a shortfall of £2,690 which it is hoped will be made available from Guildford Borough Council under the 2009/10 grant aid scheme from funding not now required by the Parish Council.

Budget for the year 2011/12

RECOMMENDATION - that the budget allocated for May 2011's election expenses be reduced to £200 (possible cost of Guildford Borough Council's services associated with the May election). Remaining £5,600 to be transferred to the General Reserve to improve the current position.

Consideration of additional requests from organisations for financial assistance for the year 2011/12

RECOMMENDATION – that a donation of £50 be given to the Farming and Wildlife Advisory Service (Expenditure Power - L.G. Act 1972 s. 137) – **SECTION 137 RESOLUTION TO BE PASSED BY THE FULL COUNCIL IF RECOMMENDATION ACCEPTED.**

RECOMMENDATION – that a donation of £100 be given to Victim Support (expenditure power - Crime & Disorder Act 1998 s.17).

General Reserve balance following the implementation of the above five recommendations would increase to £42,541.

Precept 2012/13

The Finance Committee **RECOMMEND** that the 2012/13 budget be **ACCEPTED** and **RECOMMEND** that a precept of £116,085 (£116,500 2011/12) be **ISSUED**. This Precept will be equivalent to £59.64 per annum per Band D property and is an approximate decrease of £0.07p per Band D property per annum. (Number of Band D equivalent properties in the Parish = 1,946.46 as at November 2011 – a reduction of 4.43 compared with last year).

RECOMMENDATION that further operational/financial information is obtained from the Friends of the Hurtwood and considered by the full Council prior to the issuing of the proposed donation.

Surrey County Council – pension deficit levy – the Committee noted the increase for 2012/13. Cessation options – the Committee were reminded that, as advised to the full Council previously, the deficit contributions that have accrued to the Parish Council will still need to be paid even if the Council does not have an active member in the Fund. The annual payments set by the Actuary are based on this deficit being recovered over a 20 year period and these payments could be continued on a monthly/annual repayment basis as at present provided that the Council remain in the scheme even if no contribution is being made to any future staff member.

Note: The Council still to consider a resolution to withdraw any future Clerk from the Local Government Pension Scheme as previously suggested. At the present time it is illegal for the Council to contribute to any other scheme although it is anticipated that this could change in the near future.

Financial risk assessment – the Committee reviewed the financial risk assessment and **RECOMMEND ACCEPTANCE** of this with no amendments.

Financial Regulations – the Committee reviewed the current Regulations and **RECOMMEND ACCEPTANCE** of these. Next annual review November 2012.

Insurance

The Committee **CONFIRMED** the adequacy of the Council's insurance.
RECOMMENDATION: that the insurance cover remains as at present.

Remit of the Finance Committee – the Committee agreed that the remit currently in operation is satisfactory and **RECOMMEND** that no amendments are required.

Exclusion of the Public and Press (Public Bodies Admission to meetings Act 1960)

Staffing issues – staff salaries are **RECOMMENDED** as detailed in the confidential Minutes. These are subject to a satisfactory Clerk's Annual Appraisal and subsequent approval by the full Council.

Date of next meeting: February 2012 – review of the 2011/12 budget.