

HAMPTON IN ARDEN PARISH COUNCIL BUDGET MEETING

Held at

THE MEETING ROOM

On

WEDNESDAY 6TH JANUARY 2010

Present: Councillors: Mr P.W. Adam
Mr M. James
Mr G Juniper
Dr. G. Lewis
Mrs A. Rolf
Mr R Smith

09/73 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillor Bowen.

09/74 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

09/75 RISK ASSESSMENT

The meeting considered any changes to the Council's responsibilities in the last year. The Clerk confirmed that following the transfer of ownership of the telephone box to the Parish Council, this had been added to the list of all risks schedule. In addition, the new bus shelter needed to be added.

The chairman confirmed that volunteers taking part in Speedwatch were covered by the West Midlands Police insurance; volunteers working with Environmental Champions were covered by Solihull MBC's insurance. The clerk agreed to check with the insurers about volunteers who were working on Parish Council owned land such as the Spinney.

09/76 2010/11 BUDGET SETTING

The Chairman explained the basis for the draft budget circulated prior to the meeting, together with explanatory notes and statement of reserves She confirmed that the proposed budget was set to hold the level of precept at the 2008/9 level (i.e. for the third year.) A paper had been prepared by Councillor Bowen which proposed increasing the precept by 10% with proposals for a number of budget headings to be increased but this was not supported by other councillors who felt it was important to show restraint because of the tough economic climate.

Income

The only change proposed was not to fund any activities from reserves as it was unlikely there would be any carried forward expenditure from 2009/10.

Expenditure

Most of the budget headings were set at 2009/10 levels with the exception of the maintenance budget which was increased to £3600 to reflect the likely charges for emptying bins on council owned land, clerk's salary which took account of an increment, web site which was increased to £700 to allow for development costs, insurance which had a 3% inflation increase. There was no allowance for a contingency and the capital and parish plan budget (funded from reserves in 2009/10) were deleted.

Contribution to Reserves.

The level of reserves was discussed in some detail and the view of the meeting was that the contribution to reserves should remain at £7000 to reflect the future need to replace the car park surface and replace the play equipment plus unexpected tree work.

The draft budget as proposed (apart from a small adjustment of £200 off the maintenance budget) was **agreed as proposed by Councillor Adams and seconded by Councillor Juniper.**

09/77 Future Budget Planning

The chairman suggested that in future, the parish council should have a consultation debate with parishioners about the budget, (perhaps around November) so that we could take account of the community when looking at future needs. Councillors agreed to discuss this at the Annual meeting with parishioners.

09/78 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on 20th January 2010

The meeting closed at 8.15pm.