

HAMPTON-IN-ARDEN PARISH COUNCIL BUDGET MEETING

Held at
THE MEETING ROOM
On
WEDNESDAY 8 JANUARY 2014

Present: **Councillors: Dr G Lewis (Chair)**
 Mr M James
 Mrs A Rolf
 Clerk: Mrs J Richardson

13/92 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors Blomer, Doidge and Bowen. It was affirmed that the 3 councillors present constituted a quorum.

13/93 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor James declared an interest in relation to his son-in-law being an applicant for the parish councillor vacancy, item 13/96.

13/94 RISK ASSESSMENT

The meeting considered any changes to the Council's responsibilities in the last year. The Clerk confirmed that the new Outdoor Gym has been added to the insurance schedule.

Councillor James confirmed that monthly inspections are taking place in the car park and recreation ground, and a tree inspection had been carried out on council land. A Maintenance Report/Accident Book is available in the office.

13/95 BUDGET SETTING FOR 2014/15

The basis for the draft budget, circulated prior to the meeting, was reviewed together with explanatory notes and details of reserves.

It was proposed that the grass cutting and maintenance costs should remain the same and the Clerk's salary should be increased, together with the newsletter costs. In addition the contribution to reserves should again be £5,000. The Chair proposed that the overall precept be slightly increased (by £151) to balance the estimated expenditures. As there are more dwellings paying council tax this year and we are to receive a support grant of £729, the cost per household could remain the same as last year at £27.53. This 2014/15 budget, proposed by the Chair and seconded by Councillor Rolf was agreed by all Councillors present.

The clerk will obtain a quote for re-surfacing the car park and also an estimate of how many years it is likely to be before re-surfacing is required. This will allow a more accurate estimate of what amount is needed in reserves.

Clerk

13/96 CO-OPTION OF PARISH COUNCILLOR

The Chair summarised that 5 parishioners had applied to be co-opted into the vacant post. As requested by the council at its last meeting councillors Lewis and Blomer met with the candidates in early December. Feedback on the discussions had been circulated to all councillors on 15th December.

Councillors Doidge and Blomer had both written to the chair with their preferred choice as they were unable to attend this meeting. Councillor Bowen had requested that the selection be postponed until the next full parish council meeting on 15th January.

Although the meeting was quorate, Councillor Rolf stated that she was not prepared to vote on the co-option with only 3 councillors present, which therefore rendered any vote invalid.

This item will be carried forward to the next meeting.

13/97 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

15th January 2014 – Parish Council Meeting

5th February 2014 – Maintenance Meeting

The meeting closed at 8.00pm

