

HASSOCKS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the **POLICY, RESOURCES and COMMUNICATIONS** Committee meeting held on 1st December 2015 at 7.30pm in the Parish Centre, Adastra Park, Hassocks

PRESENT: Cllrs Judith Foot (Chairman)
Ian Credland
Justine Fisher
Frances Gaudencio
Peter Gibbons
Bill Hatton
Sue Hatton
Ian Weir

In attendance: Linda Butcher – Locum Parish Clerk
1 member of the public

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE None

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST None

MINUTES

Meeting 14th October 2015

15/162 RESOLVED to accept the minutes of the meeting held on 14th October 2015.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The member of the public present was asked if he wished to speak but he declined.

BUDGET

To agree the budget for the Policy, Resources and Communications Committee

The amount of anticipated bank interest was discussed and it was AGREED the Clerk will investigate the possibility of depositing some of the Council's funds in a higher interest account possibly one operated by CLCA.

The question of Members' Allowances was considered and it was AGREED this matter should be referred to the January meeting of Council and in the meantime it was

15/163 RESOLVED to include £400 for expenses as in previous years.

All budget headings were considered and it was AGREED to continue to separate the ordinary grants from the grant given for the Christmas Lights; all other budgets are as per the attached list.

- 15/164 RESOLVED** that the budget for 2016/17 for the Policy, Resources and Communications Committee would be £160,200, including £8,000 for the Neighbourhood Plan but subject to further detail being available for the Council meeting.

Budget for the Environment Committee

The Committee suggested that the Footpaths/Monday Group heading and the Rights of Way heading should be amalgamated.

The following amendments were also AGREED:

Finger post maintenance to be reduced from 1500 to £1200.

Tree planting figure of £4000 to be deleted making a total budget for the Environment Committee for 2016/17 £38,870

Budget for the Grounds Committee

The Committee AGREED to increase the anticipated income from Sports Clubs from £8000 to £9000 with all other budgets remaining the same giving an anticipated budget for 2016/17 of £22,810

To agree the final budget for Hassocks Parish Council

The Committee then went through the Ear-marked reserves in detail to see if any could be released into General Reserves to fund some of the budget and it was

- 15/165 RESOLVED** release £13,000 from the Machinery ear-marked reserve, £10,000 from the Adastra Memorial Gardens ear-marked reserve, £16,000 from the Refurbishment of the Public Toilets ear-marked reserve and £1,400 from the Floral Displays ear-marked reserve.

- 15/166 RESOLVED** to investigate investing the £16,000 from the Refurbishment of the Public Toilets into a fixed term account with CLCA in order to gain a higher rate of interest for this amount until such time as it may be needed for the original purpose.

To recommend to Council the precept for 2016/17

The working figures for this purpose are:

Committee	Anticipated Income	Anticipated Expenditure	Budget
Grounds	15,050	37,860	22,810
Environment	250	39,120	38,870
P.R.C.	1,200	160,200	159,000
TOTAL	16,500	237,180	220,680

15/167 RECOMMEND to Council that the budget for 2016/17 would be £220,680

In 2015/16 the Council's Tax Base was 3,296.5 making a Band D Equivalent was £50.44. However, there has been some additional properties built within the parish so an assumption of 3300 has been used for 2016/17 – it is hoped to be able to confirm the exact number by the Council meeting next week.

Budget £220,680

Funded by:

Reserves £39,180

Precept £181,500

Band D Equivalent £55.00

The Locum Clerk advised that Council could re-visit these figures at the meeting next week when it was hoped firm information would be available against some of the queries including the Tax Base.

15/168 RECOMMEND to Council that the above figures are considered for approval in order to set the Precept for 2016/17 and to concentrate on efficiency measures and income generation throughout the year.

COMMUNICATION

To receive a report from Cllr Frances Gaudencio and Justine Fisher

A written report was circulated for each Committee Member and would be worked on further before final adoption but in the meantime it was

15/169 RECOMMENDED to Council that the Council sets up Facebook and Twitter accounts in the name of the Parish Council to be run from the parish office.

The meeting closed at 9.50pm