

SOUTH BRENT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on 1st December 2008 at 7.30 p.m. at The Old School Centre, South Brent.

PRESENT: Cllrs Ron Akehurst, Jill Elms, Cathie Pannell,
Glyn Richards (Chairman) and Donald Wiseman.
Julia Willoughby clerk to the Council in attendance.

FC 1-12-08 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
None.

FC 2-12-08 CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING, AND
REPORT ANY MATTERS ARISING – FOR INFORMATION ONLY
The minutes were confirmed and signed.
An alternative insurance quotation has not yet been received.
The new photocopier is working well.

FC 3-12-08 FORMULATE A BUDGET PROPOSAL AND PRECEPT REQUEST
FOR 2009-10 FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE PARISH COUNCIL
The Chairman advised that over recent years the precept plus an amount from reserves have made up the annual budget; this cannot continue or the Parish Council reserves will be used up (and 1/3rd of the annual expenditure needs to be in reserve).

PAYROLL

The clerk's salary has been paid at spinal column point 29 from 1.4.08; the Committee will meet again in March to consider the precise details of the payroll increases from April 2009, meanwhile an increment for the clerk plus a 5% increase have been included in the calculation of £17,600.

CLERK'S COSTS

The current amount is ample, so the budget line will be reduced to £250.

OFFICE SUPPLIES

The computer for use by the clerk was replaced in 2007 and the photocopier was replaced in November, so this amount can be reduced to £750.

GRASS CUTTING & HEDGE TRIMMING

The grounds maintenance contract is for 10 grass cuts per year (although actually 12 are taking place); it would probably be wise to increase this to 12 cuts per year (in the hope that 14 cuts would be carried out).

The PCC is seeking assistance with the cost of grounds maintenance of 'The Patch' the Millennium burial ground and the 1910 burial ground. (In recent years the Council has funded 50% of the costs of maintaining 'The Patch' and Millennium burial ground.) The Chairman noted that the burial grounds are for all parishioners, and at present church goers are subsidising non-church goers.

The Committee recommends that **the Parish Council funds 50% of the grass cutting of the 1910 and Millennium burial grounds and 'The Patch', and a Parish Council representative is party to the competitive tendering process for these areas.**

The budget line is increased to £2,300 accordingly.

LOCAL PROJECTS

Reduced to £4,000 in line with actual expenditure.

S137 GRANTS

Christmas lights are the main expenditure (Scouts have requested grants of £750 for the last two years for travel costs); as the solar Christmas lights are cheaper, £2,000 will be allowed for 2009-10.

VILLAGE IMPROVEMENTS

A safer crossing point in the centre of the village is now being discussed directly with DCC Highways £8,000 is held in 'Earmarked Reserves'. Budget to remain at £1,500.

COMMUNITY TRANSPORT

Remains at £600.

MEDIA

Replacement village map signs will be funded from Local Projects, this leaves £1,500 for other ongoing costs including £250 towards the SB Guide.

INSURANCE

This line will be increased to £1,300.

OPEN SPACES

A budget line of £1,800 is recommended; payment for the new door to the toilet will come from Local Projects.

PARISH PLAN REVIEW

This project should conclude by 31.3.09 (invoices may be received during 2009-10).

PARISH BASIC ALLOWANCE

The Parish Remuneration Panel will sit in December, the current allowance payable per elected Councillor is £102. The budget line will remain at £1,200.

(The remaining budget lines are fairly self explanatory see attached budget proposal.)

The Committee recommends that the **Parish Council budget for 2009-10 is £40,700 with a precept request of £37,260** the balance to come from reserves. (An average increase of £1.00 per household per year.)

FC 4-12-08 CONSIDER WHETHER ELECTRICITY CHARGES FOR THE

TOILET IN THE MEMORIAL SHELTER SHOULD BE PAID BY DIRECT DEBIT

The Committee noted that the standing charge is £28.86 per quarter, and the charge for water used is £0.12; it is unlikely that this could be reduced, so no action will be taken at present, and the charges will continue to be paid quarterly.

FC 5-12-08 ANY OTHER RELEVANT MATTERS, INCLUDING ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

The next meeting will be held in March 2009, and will include a salary review and consideration of an increment for the clerk.

The meeting closed at 9.08 p.m.