

MINUTES OF HORSMONDEN PARISH COUNCIL
FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
FRIDAY 9TH NOVEMBER 2012
AT 10.00 A.M,
THE VILLAGE HALL, HORSMONDEN.

Present: Cllr Russell (Chair)
Councillors Davis and March.

In attendance: Lucy Noakes (Clerk)

Declarations of Interest: Declarations of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests in accordance with the Code of Conduct were invited.

1. **ELECTION OF CHAIR**

Cllr March proposed Cllr Russell as Chair; seconded by Cllr Davis and unanimously agreed.

2. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

None.

3. **PRECEPT FOR 2013/2014**

The draft precept was circulated by the Clerk to those present. Each point was discussed in detail with suggested amendments made to the spread sheet.

The Clerk's salary was discussed in some detail, as the last increase to the pay scales was in 2009. It was thought that the number of points on the NALC (National Association of Local Council's) pay scale could not be increased for the Clerk unless she was to undertake some of the professional examinations. Clerk to investigate this. The Clerk was keen to take further training, but felt that the current work load would not allow for her taking the exams at present as there was already so much Council business to be undertaken.

It was suggested by Cllr March that the Council could offer a bonus of £100 upon completion of certain tasks which are in addition of the Clerks everyday jobs. Four such jobs were mentioned: setting up the Trust documentation for the Institute, dealing with the contract for the public toilet refurbishment and finalisation of the refurbishment, parish news.

Cllr March reported that Les Bateup would not be able to continue the mowing of the Green next year. It was suggested that the Clerk try to find a contractor who could take on the mowing and the maintenance at the same time, thereby amalgamating the cost of gang mowing, mower repairs, mower replacement and village green maintenance. It was hoped that such a contractor may have his own mowing machinery, so that the current machinery could either be sold to the Sports Ground or elsewhere.

All other points of the precept were discussed in detail and adjusted according to the information currently available, with further information to be obtained prior to the December finance meeting. The current estimated figure was £58388.00 (as shown in Appendix 1) representing an increase of 1.88%. This figure may be adjusted once further information is available.

4. **RISK ASSESSMENT**

The Risk Assessment (Appendix 2) as prepared by the Clerk was presented at the meeting. It was suggested Cllr Russell that the Finance Committee members should take a close look at this, and email the Clerk with any further amendments which they felt necessary. This could then be discussed further at the December Finance meeting

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 12.50 p.m.