

## **RIVER PARISH COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BUDGET SUB-COMMITTEE**

Held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2015 at 91 Lewisham Road, River, CT17 0PA

**PRESENT:** Cllr. Taylor (in the Chair), Cllr. Brand, Cllr. Dixon, Cllr. Nicholas

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Mr. A. Denyer (Parish Clerk)

#### **1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

Cllr. Dixon proposed that Cllr. Taylor chair the meeting. This was seconded by Cllr. Brand and all agreed.

#### **2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

All present.

#### **3. CONCLUSION OF AUDIT FOR 2015**

Clerk reported notice from the auditors that the annual audit has been successfully concluded. The auditors have requested that the asset register be reviewed so that values of items reflect the original cost/purchase value. It was agreed that advice be sought from KALC over property values with regard to the asset register.

#### **4. RECREATION GROUND USER CHARGES FOR 2016**

- i. Clerk circulated the charges applied to Recreation Ground users over the last five years. It was agreed that an increase of one percent be applied from April 2016
- ii. River Bowling Pavilion Lease: It was noted that the five-year lease agreement will need to be renewed for 2016. Cllr. Dixon is to look at the timescale. Clerk is to let the bowling club know that the lease is under review.

#### **5. BUDGET/PRECEPT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2016/2017**

- i. It was agreed to contact John Wright for clarification on his tender for unlocking and cleaning.
- ii. It was agreed to recommend to the parish council that an additional ten paid working hours be available each month, if required, to the Parish Clerk to take into account additional duties and meetings attended. This arrangement to begin in April 2016 and to be reviewed after twelve months.
- iii. It was agreed that part of the projects budget be set aside for village improvements. This is the only significant change in categories of spending
- iv. After consideration of the draft budget, it was agreed to recommend to the parish council an increase in the resource requirement to £59,839. With a diminishing parish council tax grant, this will require an increase of three percent on council tax. This follows three years of council tax reductions. The reasons for the increase are as follows:
  - a. Improvements to play equipment and new adult fitness equipment (to be paid for by accumulated reserves and grant funding) will, inevitably, lead to increased maintenance and possible insurance costs;
  - b. To safeguard against possible future ground maintenance costs;
  - c. It is not possible to significantly increase fees to Recreation Ground users without loss of paid users and no other ways of revenue generation are available at the moment;
  - d. A modest increase will allow for a new village improvement budget to address concerns, raised by many local people, over the appearance of the parish.
  - e. The parish council must take into consideration that the grant received via Dover District Council from central government is diminishing year on year and may reach a point where there is no longer any grant received.
  - f. Looking to the future, with diminishing central government funding and reduced reserves (once improvements to the play facilities have been completed), River Parish Council must maintain enough income to meet its obligations.

It was noted that the level of council tax requested for 2016/17 is still lower than that requested in 2013/14. Clerk confirmed that there is no cap on precept levels or requirements for referendum for the parish council sector in 2016/17.

A copy of the draft budget is appended to these minutes.



**RIVER PARISH COUNCIL  
BUDGET PROPOSALS 2016/17**

	<i>2014/2015 BUDGET</i>	<i>2015/2016 BUDGET</i>	<b>2016/2017 BUDGET</b>
<b>RECREATION GROUND INCOME</b>			
Misc Sports Users	100	100	100
Tennis	992	1011	1021
Football	4511	4800	4684
Bowls Rent/Fees	5754	5400	5455
Other Income		50	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>11357</b>	<b>11361</b>	<b>11260</b>
<b>RECREATION GROUND EXPENDITURE</b>			
1. Repairs & Renewals	5000	5000	5000
2. Groundworks	17284	18000	18000
3. Utilities/Legionnaire Audit	3300	4500	4500
4. Lock/unlock/clean	7970	7970	8910
5. Groundwork Materials	4635	5000	5000
6. Misc	100	100	300
7. Projects	2000		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>40289</b>	<b>40570</b>	<b>41710</b>
<b>NET COST OF REC. GROUND</b>	<b>28932</b>	<b>29209</b>	<b>30450</b>
<b>PARISH ACCOUNT EXPENDITURE</b>			
8. Election Expenditure	500	2714	500
9. Salary & N.I.	6975	7128	8652
10. Office Expenses	673	687	672
11. Stationery, Postage & Sundries	500	500	500
12. Hall Hire	258	280	275
13. Audit	500	400	400
14. Insurance	4100	4200	3500
15. Subscriptions	1200	1200	1200
16. Grants (to local organisations)	2450	2750	2500
17. Training	500	500	300
18. Travel	50	50	50
19. Misc/Contingency	2100	600	500
20. Projects	10000	8000	4000
21. Village Improvement			6340
22. Payment of Loans	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL PARISH EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>29806</b>	<b>29009</b>	<b>29389</b>
<b>PLUS RECREATION GROUND NET COST</b>	<b>28932</b>	<b>29209</b>	<b>30450</b>
<b>TOTAL RESOURCE REQUIREMENT</b>	<b>£58,738</b>	<b>£58,218</b>	<b>£59,839</b>
MINUS PARISH COUNCIL TAX GRANT	1105.62	747.46	521.66
PRECEPT	£57,632.38	£57,470.54	<b>£59,317.34</b>
BAND D COUNCIL TAX CHARGE	£39.02	£38.87	<b>£40.04</b>
		<i>INCREASING BY</i>	3.00%