

Cobham Parish Council
Budget Meeting
7.30 PM 3 December 2018
St Mary's Church Room

Present

Cllr R Dymond (Chairman)	Cllr S Dyer (Vice Chairman)
Cllr J Blackett	Cllr M Haig
Cllr M Booth	Cllr J Elliott
Mrs T Sampson (Clerk)	

Apologies received from Cllr Ben Smith and Cllr Gabbitas.

The budget meeting of Cobham Parish Council is a closed meeting at which PC spending for the forthcoming financial year is discussed.

- The clerk's pay for the year beginning April 2019 is yet to be agreed, but a possible small increase in line with the negotiated KALC pay scale of £9.34 per hour is to be considered.
- A small increase in the hourly rate paid to the maintenance man (£7.83) was agreed.

The budget has been provisionally agreed in relation to:

- Clerk's expenses

The amount for photocopying, stamps and stationery requirements has been set at £100.

- Insurance

The amount of £1,200 has been set aside for the renewal of the Parish Council's Insurance.

- Subscriptions

It was agreed that £620 should be allocated to the payment of subscriptions to the Kent Association of Local Councils (KALC/NALC), Campaign for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE) and Kent County Playing Fields Association (KCPFA)

- Website server costs

Clerk to let Cllr Dyer have the details she has in relation to the website server, Cllr Dyer to make enquires about any upcoming costs before funds can be agreed, currently the allocation stands at £180.

- Grants

A grant of £600 will be given to the Parish Magazine, once again £250 will be set aside for the Community Bus.

- War Memorial

For the maintenance of the war memorial £60 has been allocated.

- Cobham Parish Pump

It had been hoped that the reinstating of the tap and animal water tray would take place during 2018, however not enough money was available. Following a discussion about the repair £1,500 has been set aside for the specialist work to take place during 2019.

- Donations

The Parish Council will continue to donate £50 to the Royal British Legion on the 11th November.

- Children's corner

The playground equipment underwent a full refurbishment during 2018, but the safety matting continues to deteriorate and patching it does not appear to be a solution to the overall problem. The Parish Councillors felt that the replacement of the mats should be undertaken they agreed to allocate £1,500 for the matting and the general up keep of the playground.

- Traffic Management

The speed indicator device (SID) installed last year has received positive feedback and several other rural parishes are looking to follow suit. Cllr Blackett is, at present, happy to continue charging and changing the battery, it is not thought the batteries will need replacing for approx. 5 years. The data produced by the SID will prove useful in the coming months as we consider the impact on the Parish by the new Lower Thames Crossing. The PC has allocated £3000 for possible future maintenance of current traffic calming measures and any new measures undertaken.

- Commemorations

The WW1 commemorations were well received throughout the Parish, as no further events are forecast it was decided that a budget for events was no longer required at this time.

- Youth Club

The Parish Council provided a grant of £700 to the Youth Club last year, Cllr Dyer will speak to the leader of the Youth Club to find out how the club was getting along, the Parish Council will then decide on whether to allocate any funds this year (Cllr Dyer to feed back to Clerk).

Gravesham Borough Council has requested that Parish Councils submit their Precept request by 11th January in time for the full Council meeting. The Parish Council are not due to meet until the 14th January.

- AOB.

Cllr Dymond is unable to attend the meeting with Highways at County Hall Maidstone on the 4th Dec, Cllr Booth will be attending to represent the Parish.

The development of the former Littlebrook power station in Dartford into a business/haulage hub was discussed in relation to any possible increase in traffic through the parish. The new Amazon warehouse in Lower Halstow may entail large lorries using the new LTC and impact on the general traffic flow.

A decision to give £150 was taken, following the meeting, to the Luddesdowne Rights of way group for keeping the footpaths of Cobham and Sole Street.

The meeting closed at 9.35pm.....