

Cobham Parish Council 2018-19 Budget Meeting

Minutes of the Budget Meeting held in St Mary's Church Room
on Monday 4 December 2017

Present: Cllr R Dymond (Chairman)
Cllr D Dyer (Deputy Chairman)
Cllr M Haig
Cllr B Smith
Cllr J Blackett

In attendance: Mrs T Sampson (Clerk)

Apologies for absence: Cllr G Gabbitas, Cllr M Booth

The clerk advised that the current balance in the accounts totalled £32,557.93.
The precept for 2017-was £10,700.00 (corrected by Clerk Jan 18)

There had been an error on the spreadsheet in relation to the Clerk's salary, it was agreed that the clerk's salary would remain the same. Cllr Dymond wishes to seek advice from KALC in relation to rates of pay in relation to size of Parish. It had been asked whether it would be better for the clerk to be self-employed, however as all the local clerks are employed by the Local Authority/ Parish Council, no change would be made.

The payment to the maintenance man is £1,560 per annum and takes in to account the changes to the minimum wage. He will invoice the Parish Council.

A Parish Councillor asked why the Parish Council needs to pay for an accountant and an auditor. It is a legal requirement.

The Clerk explained that the amount spent of office expenses was approx. £68.00 It was agreed that £100 would still be set aside for the Clerk's office expenses, which includes photocopying, stationery and postage.

Insurance

It was agreed that the sum being paid in relation to Insurance, which now also includes cover for the public toilet, was still acceptable at the amount of £1,100.00.

Subscriptions

It was agreed that a total of £620.00 be allocated for renewal of subscriptions to Kent Association of Local Councils (KALC), Campaign for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE), Kent County Playing Fields Association (KCPFA) and West Downs Countryside Trust (WKDCT).

It was agreed that £370 was necessary for the hire of the Meadow Room and St Mary's Church room.

Grants

The Cobham Parish Council's grant towards the cost of The Cobham & Luddesdown Church magazine would be maintained at £400.

It was agreed that Cobham Parish Council would once again set aside £250 towards the running of the Community Bus.

War Memorial Maintenance

It was agreed that £50 be set aside for all-round maintenance it is good value for money as it included a jet wash of the monument prior to the Remembrance service.

Water Pump Maintenance

It was agreed that £400 will be set aside for the water pump and the wall behind it, this coming year.

Donations

It was agreed that £50 be allocated for donation to the Royal British Legion.

Children’s Corner Maintenance

Following some discussion, it was agreed that £1000 be set aside for grass cutting, general maintenance and repairs to equipment and surfaces.

Sweeps Hole Pond

A sum of £720 was agreed for the future maintenance of the pond. This has been agreed with Peter Baylis and includes a small increase; the first since 2015.

Computer equipment

It was agreed that it would not be necessary to set aside any provision for computer equipment for the next year.

Parish Traffic Management

A discussion took place regarding traffic management and agreed that we had to consider how we use the funds we have most effectively, Speedwatch had not received much support and so it was agreed that the money that had been allocated for the purchase of Speedwatch equipment would not be used for this purpose. There was further discussion about the collection of data and the engagement of a traffic consultant, KCC have said they would only accept data from a police installed black box or collected by a specialist like Amey. It was agreed that following discussions with KCC we would look to purchase Speed warning signs which could be utilised by both Cobham and Sole Street. It was agreed that £5,000 should be set aside for this purpose.

Commemorations

It was agreed that £200 would be put aside for the forthcoming commemorations of the end of WW1.

Youth Club

The Youth club had requested £1,000 to help the club continue its work. It was agreed that the Parish Council would pay for the cost of hiring the hall and has put aside £700 for this reason.

Luddesdown Rights of Way Group

The group requested financial support for the maintenance of their cutting equipment. It was agreed that £150 be set aside for this purpose as the group does such a fantastic job.

AOB – a brief discussion took place regarding recent planning applications.

(TS)The Precept request needs to be submitted before the next meeting.

The Meeting closed at 9.25pm - Chairman.....

