

Minutes of Halling Parish Council held on 14th January 2014 at the Jubilee Hall

JANEM14/01

Present: Mark Joy (MJ) in Chair, Sally Brady - Vice-Chair (SB); Les Hitchcock (LH); Matthew Fearn (MF); Kevyn Wightman (KW); Jim Sutherland (JS); Chris Herbert (CH); Bob Morton (BM) and George Wenham (GW)

The Clerk: Bill Swan (WS)

1 member of the public

1. Apologies - none as all present

2. Finance Committee Meeting

The Committee Chairman Chris Herbert introduced the spreadsheet as prepared by the Clerk. HPC will be overspent on General Admin due to increased costs in insurance and the Website where Clive Stanley has been asked to carry out a redesign.

Also Halling View is overspent but the costs of producing it are coming down. Adverts should be restarted from 1st April 2014 and charges for them will have to be agreed.

MJ asked if the quote for the play equipment in the Upper Rec could be sent to Medway Council as our claim for the Rural Liaison Grant. MJ said that Marsh Road needs work to maintain it in good order. The Clerk is to ask Peter Lingham if he could cut it back before April.

CH said that HPC is within the overall budget and with a bank balance of £35,000 we are doing well for a small parish council.

MJ asked if the Clerk could get 3 quotes for the resurfacing of Marsh Road.

MJ also asked if Members thought that the White Pit is good value for the people of Halling.

KW said that it is a very important and interesting site. CH said that HPC will have to make a decision between now and June as to whether the lease with CEMEX should be renewed.

2. Set precept for financial year 2014/2015.

CH said that there is the £5,000 to come in from Redrow for the sewer pipe. HPC has to consider the costs of purchasing the Fire Station with legal fees of £1,000 likely and the cost of obtaining planning permission of perhaps £10,000. Other major expenditure for 2014/2015 is £14,500 for play equipment. An alternative for the Fire Station site is to turn it into a pay car park (at say £4 a day for 40 cars) in view of the number of houses being built in Halling and the number of commuters who will be coming from Peters Pit Village over the new bridge to Halling Rail Station. There is a need to consider parking and traffic through the Village.

MF thought there could be a potential saving for HPC by using Village Voices magazine.

After discussion, the following budget was proposed by CH

Estates/footpaths	reduce by £1,000 to	£7,000
Combine Marsh Road and White Pit		£2,500
General Admin.	Increase by £2,500 to	£10,000
Halling View	reduce by £500 to	£2,500
Wages	to be left at	£8,000
FW14	increase by £500 to	£3,000
Play equipment	to be left at	£3,000
Halling Association contribution	to be left at	£2,000
Total		£38,000

an increase of £5.1%

This was seconded by LH and agreed unanimously.

3. Consider Funday 2013 report and recommend action to be taken by full council

CH said that he would like to do a full audit personally on FW13 accounts together with SB but he could not start until after 28th January 2014.

Restricted item

To discuss complaint against the Parish Council

CH left the meeting as it involved his wife the Assistant Clerk. The Clerk offered to leave the room but was asked by the Chairman to stay.

MJ read out the email from Trevor Reynolds and after some discussion it was agreed that a reply be sent saying that HPC was sorry that the procedure had taken so long but had now tightened its procedures but offering no apology.