

ITCHEN VALLEY PARISH COUNCIL
(Serving the villages of Avington, Easton, Itchen Abbas & Martyr Worthy)
Minutes of the Meeting
Finance & General Purposes Committee
November 20th (Wednesday) 2013

Attending: Cllr Flemons Cllr Kennedy- Chairman Cllr Riley Cllr Moffatt
Cllr Robinson

9.1 Apologies – none.

9.2 Minutes of the Meeting held on October 2013

Were agreed as a true record having been approved by Full Council and have been signed by the Chairman

9.3 Couch Green

FILO should be attending to pay the account shortly; they have asked a question re the 2014 season on the availability of the pitch? The committee would wish to keep the pitch available for football in 2014. The cricket club has been advised that the council is unable to give a 25 year lease and have suggested a realignment of the cricket pitch to allow dual use with security of tenure only on that element used by the cricket club, but the committee does not believe dual use is at all possible and in any case no part of the Field could be subject to a 25 year lease.

This issue is not yet resolved. There is also the question of recommissioning the pavilion and the associated increased costs that the committee cannot recommend be subsidised. This matter will be a further agenda item.

9.4 McPherson Field- Lease/Insurance future plans.

In a nutshell we cannot continue to assist the Trust as we have done in the past. We do not control the field and this does bring up issues of insurance and expenditure that we will need to keep as Section 137 expenditure.

Cllr Kennedy proposed that he will approach Mr Rember with two proposals; either a licence to occupy that would allow us full protection of the law and insurance to continue (basically) as we have been. Or that the Trust is dissolved and we then manage it as custodian trustees possibly handing over the site to Fields in Trust if that is the Trust's requirement. What cannot continue is the status quo which is not in the council or parishioners interest.

9.5 Lengthsman - Interviews 5th Dec 2013

Cllr Moffatt will attend as well.

9.6 Budget Preparations 2014/15

Papers prepared and will be circulated with these papers.

Current forecast

£664 footpaths but we are likely to spend £100.

£1325 remains in Highways for shelters (£1000) and £325 SLR's – anticipate spending this.

Section 137 - £1600 we anticipate applications from the Martyr Worthy & IA&AV Hall with full accounts. It's possible that we will be spending this.

We will not be spending £148 in subscriptions and we will keep a small training amount for new Councillors.

Open spaces: - we are still contracted for two cuts that we may have had in October. Play bark and remedial works need to be done at McPherson Field – the Clerk will contact Vita Play to attend to these works.

£500 for the pavilion, we do not wish to spend this but we may have to in the New Year.

Couch Green notice board needs the Perspex replacing.

If we do not spend any more on play equipment we do need to ring fence the amount and carry it forward.

Budget

We have comparative figures for 2013/14 and we do precept low in comparison with similar parishes. We do need funds to continue to provide a service to our community and prices are increasing just to stand still.

Full council considered that an increase in precept by up to £2,000 would be acceptable, and proposed revisions to the draft budget presented at the last meeting, sending it back to committee for further consideration. Having reviewed budget expenditure in the light of the updated forecast, and issues we are aware of next year (eg 1914 anniversary commemorations), and noting that no grants have been obtained for bus shelters but that urgent remedial work is required on them, The committee recommends to full council that a precept of £17,700 be set for 2014/15 to cover expenditure as set out in the attached budget papers.

9.7 Accounts to be paid as listed.

Southern Electricity	300082	£46.28
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Agreed and the cheque signed.

9.8 Any Other Financial matters agreed by the Chairman.

Basketball Court – Cllr Riley has a quotation for £1500 to lift the concrete and relay. The Clerk and Councillors felt that this amount was rather high and the Clerk will try to get direct costs for the next full council if possible – in any case you cannot lay concrete in the frost so this is job for warmer weather.

There will not be a F&GP committee meeting in December.

The meeting closed at 8:20pm