

CHOLSEY PARISH COUNCIL- BUDGET MEETING

MINUTES

Meeting	Wednesday 29th November 2017 at 7:30pm in the Pavilion, Station Road, Cholsey.
Chair	Mr M Gray
Attendees	Mrs V. Bolt, Mrs M Dyer-Lynch, Mr P Jenkins, Mr J Hope-Smith, Mr R Whitfield, Mr J Adelson and Mr P Ramsay
Apologies	Mr P Taylor and Mrs I Neill

129	To hear questions or comments from members of the public (max 15 mins).
	There was none.

130	To receive Declarations of Interest for any agenda items
	Mr Gray advised that he is chair of the library committee and children's centre. Mrs Dyer-Lynch is a member of the children's centre committee.

131	To consider and agree the proposed budget for 2018-19 as recommended by the Finance Committee
	<p>Mr Gray advised that the Finance Committee had met on 14th November to discuss the budget. Mr Gray suggested that their recommendation for each major category of expenditure be reviewed and agreed in turn.</p> <p><u>General Administration</u> The Finance Committee recommended that the overall total expenditure for General Administration be reduced from £5775 to £5450 for the year. The amount set aside for professional fees was taken out of the budget due to the recent OCC planning decision regarding New Barn Farm. Audit fees, the Chairs Allowance, website and meeting hall rental fees were increased.</p> <p><u>Accommodation</u> The accommodation budget was increased in accordance with advice from the Pavilion trust that the office rental is to be increased.</p> <p><u>Burial Ground</u> The Finance Committee recommended an increase to the expenditure for pest control in the cemetery and a reduction in expenditure for the path following the extensive work carried out this year. They suggested that the budgeted income for the Burial ground be increased.</p> <p><u>Staff</u> The Finance Committee recommended an increase to the expenditure on staff of £1,774 from £43,285 to £45,059 this reflects a proposed 1.5% increase in staff wages and an increase in hours for the Older Persons Worker and Family Support Worker. The 1.5% increase in wages to all staff was agreed.</p> <p><u>Office</u> The Finance Committee recommended an increase to the expenditure of £405 from £2225 to £2630.</p> <p><u>Allotments</u> The Finance Committee recommended an increase in both income and expenditure for the allotments. This reflects the income from the new allotments at Cholsey Meadows and the expected increase in expenditure for repairs and pest control.</p> <p><u>Open Spaces</u> The Finance Committee recommended that the proposed total expenditure for Open Spaces be increased by £3660 from £7610 to £11,270. This reflects a need for extensive pest control and necessary tree works. The income for open spaces from site rental fees to fairs and street vendors increased from £1185 to £1885.</p> <p><u>Sundries</u> The Finance Committee proposed that the total expenditure on Sundries be increased by £828 from £6,872 to £7,700. This reflects increases in the s137 budget and grants to both the Youth Club and Library.</p>

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Summer Play Scheme

The Finance Committee recommended that the budget for income (£700) should remain the same and expenditure be increased from £1200 to £1400 for the Summer Play Scheme "Action in the Park".

Defibrillator

The Finance Committee recommended a small budget (£50) be included for the replacement of consumable components of the defibrillators.

It was agreed to provide some training for use of the defibrillators.

Children's Centre

The Finance Committee recommended the expenditure was increased from £17,000 to £25,054. However the budgeted income has increased to £6,000.

New Pavilion

The Finance Committee recommended the budget for the new pavilion remain the same at £27,753 to cover the cost of mortgage payments.

Neighbourhood Plan

Mr Ramsay reported that more funding may be needed for the Neighbourhood Plan. It was agreed to take funds for this from reserves if necessary.

Precept

The Finance Committee recommended a 6% increase in the Precept to £118,145 which would result in a £4.70 per annum increase for householders to £78.78p per band "D" household

Mr Whitfield suggested that the reserves should be used to prevent an increase in the precept. Mr Adelson explained that it is good practice to hold a reserve to cover unforeseen circumstances.

Mr Whitfield proposed that £2000 from reserves be used for the initial mole control in the recreation field and burial ground. Seconded by Mr Jenkins. Defeated 2 in favour, 5 against and 1 abstention.

Mr Gray proposed Council accept the Finance Committee's recommendation to increase the precept by 6% seconded Mr Jenkins, **carried** 6 in favour and 2 against (Mr Ramsay and Mr Whitfield).

132	<p>To consider and agree the proposed Council charges for 2018-19 as recommended by the Finance Committee</p> <p>The finance committee recommended a 2% increase in council charges. Mr Gray proposed the increase of 2 %, Mrs Bolt seconded. carried 7 in favour and 1 against.</p>
133	<p>AOB</p> <p>There was none.</p>