

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF CHOLSEY PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON  
WEDNESDAY 8<sup>th</sup> January at 7.30pm at The Pavilion, Station Road, Cholsey, Oxfordshire.**

**Present: Chairman:** Mr M Gray

**Councillors:** Mr J Butler, Mr A Dalby, Mrs M Dyer-Lynch, Mr P Jenkins, Helen Jiggins, Mrs M Kaposy, Mr M Madeley

**Apologies received:** Mrs V Bolt, Mrs Hamlyn, Mrs Rowlands

**374 To receive Members' Declarations of Interest for any agenda Item**

Mr Gray declared an interest as a member of the Pavilion Trust Committee

**375 To approve charges for Council facilities wef 1 April 2014**

Mr Gray reminded council that these charges had been investigated and reviewed in detail last year when findings suggested that Cholsey's fees were on the high side compared to other local Parish Councils.

Mr Dalby proposed that the charges should stay as they are. Seconded: Mr Jenkins Carried: All in favour

**376 To approve the Council Budget for 2014-15**

Mr Gray read through the budget papers explaining briefly as follows:

**General Administration**

Most budgeted categories had remained in line with the figures for 2012-13. Areas where the suggested budget had been reduced were:

Provision for audit fees - dictated by turnover these will be less than in 2012-13 due to the reduction in Pavilion build expenses.

Meeting hall rental charges, these had been reduced in line with actual expenditure.

Areas where the suggested budget had been increased were:

Provision for the cost of the new parish website

Subscription costs had been increased in line with actual expenditure.

Mr Gray proposed acceptance of the budget for General Administration, Seconded: Mr Butler. Carried: All in favour

**Accommodation**

**The budget for** accommodation had been reduced as rental charges for the new Pavilion office include electricity and water usage.

Mr Gray proposed acceptance of the budget for Accommodation, Seconded: Mr Jenkins. Carried: All in favour

**Burial Ground**

All budgeted categories had remained in line with the figures for 2012-13. The only exception was provision for paying the mortgage for the amount borrowed from the PWLB for repairs to the church wall.

Income from the burial ground had been revised downwards from 2013-14 in light of actual income to date.

Mr Gray proposed acceptance of the budget for the Burial Ground. Mr Gray, Seconded: Mrs Kaposy Carried: All in favour

**Staff**

Provision for a 1% rise for current staff had been included in the staff budget. An additional £3000 funding for a Children's Worker above the 2013-14 budgeted figure had been included. Mr Butler clarified that acceptance of the funding for a Children's Worker was a budgetary not a policy decision. Provision for Overtime and Casual Wages had been removed from the budget and provision for mileage/travel expenses and protective clothing for staff halved.

Mr Gray proposed acceptance of the budget for Staff, Seconded: Helen Jiggins. Carried: All in favour

**Office**

The proposed budget figures remained the same as 2013-14 with the exception of additional funding for support/upgrades for the new accounts software package and a general IT support provision.

Mr Gray proposed acceptance of the budget for the Office, Seconded Mrs Kaposy. Carried: All in favour

**Allotments**

An allowance had been made for an increase in water charges reflecting actual costs in 2013-14 and to cover any increase in charges by Thames water. Income from rental was projected to remain the same as for 2013-14 at £1200. Mr Gray proposed acceptance of the budget for the Allotments, Seconded Mr Dalby. Carried: All in favour

**Recreation Grounds & Open Spaces**

Provision for grass cutting and tree and hedge maintenance had been reduced in line with actual costs to date. Allowance for new signage for the children's play area had been included at the request of Mr Gray. Provision had been made for reasonable increases in charges by service suppliers. A figure of £500 had been included for signage for the Agatha Christie trail.

Mr Gray proposed acceptance of the budget for the Recreation Ground and Open Spaces, Seconded: Mr Madeley. Carried: All in favour

### **Sundries**

New provisions had been made for:

A summer play scheme for children.

A Village Hall Sinking Fund to assist the Pavilion Trust with repairs to the Pavilion if required.

Reserves - Mr Gray had spoken with OALC to confirm the position on Council holding reserves. Mr Gray explained to Council that the Council Tax Support Grant, provided to partially compensate councils for removal from the tax base of dwellings where housing tax benefit is received, has decreased this year and is expected to continue to decrease in subsequent years. Mr Butler advised that 12% of the proposed budget would be used to pay for services formerly funded by central government.

Provision for election costs had been removed. Increases had been made to the contributions for the Community Library Worker and the Youth Group worker.

Mr Gray proposed acceptance of the budget for Sundries, Seconded: Mr Butler. Carried: All in favour

### **New Pavilion**

The only item budgeted was for the Mortgage payments to the Public Works Loan Board.

Mr Gray proposed acceptance of the budget for the New Pavilion, Seconded Mr Dalby Carried: All in favour

### **377 To set a precept for 2014/15**

Mr Gray explained the way the proposed precept had been calculated:

Indicated expenditure of	£109382
Minus income of	£10635
Indicated Precept	£98747
Minus indicative support grant	<u>£4727</u>
Proposed Precept	£94020

SODC have stated that there are currently 1597 homes in Cholsey, but due to an adjustment made to cover the Council Tax Reduction Scheme, Council can only Precept on 1426.6 homes. Therefore a band D household would pay £65.90 to Cholsey Parish Council i.e. A sum of £94020 divided by 1426.6 + £65.90. This equates to a rise on last years precept of 1.8%

Mr Butler advised council that in the last 12 months the Retail Price Index had not fallen below 2.6%.

Mr Butler suggested that Council should draw up a list of how the reserves could be used.

Mr Gray proposed that the precept should be set at £94,020. Seconded: Mr Butler Carried: 7 in favour, 1 against.

**Date of next meeting: Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> January December 2014, 7.30pm, The Pavilion**