

Draft Minutes subject to ratification
WESTHAMPNETT PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF AN EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

HELD ON 6 JANUARY 2015 AT 6PM

AT THE MARCH C. OF E. SCHOOL, WESTHAMPNETT

PRESENT: R Holman (Chairman), R Fabricius, B Harding, Mrs J Hardstaff, Mrs C McLeish and Mrs Wood.

IN ATTENDANCE: G. Burt, Clerk

297. Chairman's Announcements

- a. The Chairman welcomed all those present and wished everyone a Happy New Year!
- b. He reported that Mr Blanchard and he had removed the remains of the wooden swings at Westerton play area.

298. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Mrs Moth.

299. Declarations of Interest

Members and officers were invited to make any declarations of pecuniary and/or non-pecuniary interests that they may have in relation to items on the agenda and were reminded to make any declarations at any stage during the meeting if it then became apparent that this may be required when a particular item or issue was to be considered. None were declared.

300. 2015-16 Budget

Members considered in detail a draft budget prepared by the Clerk, amended accordingly. Specific budgetary provision has been included for:

- a. The possibility of contested elections to the Council in May 2015, at the request of CDC;
- b. Taking forward work on a Neighbourhood Plan for the Parish;
- c. Training for new Councillors;
- d. Printing of the newsletter, previously done f.o.c.
- e. A small budget entitled *Chairman's Allowance*, to cover gratuities to parishioners who do valuable unpaid work for the Council and Parish, following advice from an Internal Auditor on how best to treat such expenditure.

Whilst the Council's reserves appear healthy, the bulk of that is in a capital reserve specifically earmarked for the Village Hall project and as such cannot be used to fund revenue expenditure. Although the current year is likely to show an underspend against budget, the need to make provision in 2015-16 for some unavoidable items, means that the council's reserves would be depleted, hence the need to increase the precept by a prudent amount to maintain the council's financial position, whilst still undertaking important work for the community.

Significant new capital works such as play area improvements etc. would continue to have to be met via grants, S106 and NHB allocations.

RESOLVED to adopt the budget for 2015-16 as set out in Appendix A.

301. 2015-16 Precept

Following the above, it was RESOLVED that a precept request be made upon Chichester District Council for the year 2015-16 of £20,000.

[This represents an increase on the current precept (£17,000) of 17.65%. In the current year, a Band D Council-tax payer pays £52.77 to the Parish Council. In 2015-16, this will be £62.23, an increase of 11.79%. It should be noted that the Tax Base for the Parish has gone down and since 2013-14, Westhampnett has received no *Council Tax Support Grant* from the government via CDC.]

302. Date of Next Meeting

WEDNESDAY 19 JANUARY 2015

The meeting closed at 6.45pm.

Chairman:

Date:

WESTHAMPNETT PARISH COUNCIL	
2015-16 Budget	
Income	
Balances b/f forecast	24,382.23
Precept	20,000.00
Other Income	
Sub Total	44,382.23
Expenditure	
Salaries	6700.00
Audit	350.00
Insurance	700.00
Subscriptions	400.00
Website	120.00
Office Expenses/admin	800.00
Prof Serv - Other	150.00
Prof Serv - Local Plan	2,400.00
Neighbourhood Plan	5,000.00
Training	400.00
Elections	1,200.00
Play Area Rent	200.00
Play Area Maintenance	1200.00
Play Area Equipment	500.00
Play Area Inspection	80.00
Bus Shelter Maint	200.00
Dog Bin Emptying	1,120.00
Rubbish Bins * 3	1,247.50
Grants	280.00
Grant - Churchyard	700.00
Village maintenance - tool hire	150.00
Village maintenance - fuel + equip maint.	350.00
Village maintenance - Equip Purchase	1,384.30
Miscellaneous Expenses	500.00
Chairman's Allowance	100.00
Sub Total	26,231.80