

ASHINGDON PARISH COUNCIL



Clerk to the Council: Mrs Kelly Holland
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Minutes of the Parish Council budget and precept meeting held at Ashingdon and East Hawkwell Memorial Hall on Monday 23rd November 2015 at 7.30pm.

Present:	<u>Chairman</u>	Cllr. D. Constable	<u>Vice Chairman</u>	Cllr. T. Flowers
	<u>Councillors</u>	Cllr. D. Catchpole Cllr. J. Jefferies	Cllr. N. Drayton-Thomas Cllr. D. McCarthy	Cllr. G. Dryhurst Cllr. P. Wallace
	<u>Officers</u>		Kelly Holland, Parish Clerk	
	<u>Members of press and public</u>		None	

15/156 **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Cllrs. R. Clark and S. Chittenden.

RESOLVED that the apologies be accepted.

15/157 **Declaration of Interests and Dispensations**

Cllr. P. Wallace declared a pecuniary interest in item 15/159 as her brother had quoted for the contract, she left the meeting during discussion and decision of that item. She also declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 15/160(c) as she lived near to the proposal.

15/158 **Public participation session**

None present.

15/159 **Finance 2015/15**

Cllr. P. Wallace left the meeting, 7.35pm

The current garden maintenance contractor had not carried out the contract for 3 months. Consideration was given to ceasing the contract and instructing a new contractor, quotations were also considered.

RESOLVED that

- (a) the contract with DMS Gardening be ceased with immediate effect;
- (b) 4Seasons Landscapes be instructed to undertake the garden maintenance contract with effect from 1st December 2015 at a cost of £3780 per annum.

Cllr. P. Wallace returned to the meeting, 7.45pm

15/160 **Planning**

RESOLVED that the District Council be informed of the comments as set out below the following applications:-

- (a) Application No: 15/00782/FUL
 Proposal: Single storey pitched roofed front extension and single storey pitched roofed rear and side extension
 Location: 19 Malvern Road, Hockley
No objections
- (b) Application No: 15/00786/FUL
 Proposal: Retrospective Application for front extension to existing day room.
 Location: Pear Tree, 750 New Park Road, Hockley
Object, the proposal represents inappropriate development and is in excess of 35 square metres in the Green Belt.
- (c) Application No: 15/00788/FUL
 Proposal: Two storey rear extension
 Location: 37 Ashingdon Heights
No objections

15/161 **Training**

The list of training provided by the Essex Association of Local Councils was received.

The Clerk requested permission to attend a conference in March 2016. Canewdon Parish Council had agreed to contribute 50% towards the cost of the training sessions and mileage accrued.

RESOLVED that

- (a) the following members be authorised to attend the following training sessions as part of the 2016/17 budget:

Cllr. D. Catchpole attend Councillor Training Days 1 and 2;
 Cllr. D. McCarthy attend Councillor Training Days 1 and 2;
 Cllr. T. Flowers attend the Police Partnership Conference
- (b) the Clerk be authorised to attend the Police Partnership Conference with the Parish Council contributing 50% towards the cost of training and mileage accrued.

15/162 **Member Allowances**

Members discussed whether allowances would be claimed during 2016/17. Cllrs. R. Clark, D. Constable, N. Drayton-Thomas, G. Dryhurst and T. Flowers intended to claim allowances.

RESOLVED that the five member allowances of £350.00 be budgeted for during 2016/17.

15/163 **Activities for the youth during School holidays**

Members considered providing activities during the May and October school holidays and providing a mobile skate park during August.

RESOLVED that

- (a) an archery session be held during the May and October 2016 holidays;
- (b) a 3 day mobile skate park be provided during August 2016.

15/164 **Budget and precept for 2016/17**

Members reviewed and amended the budget report for 2016/17.

Consideration was given to enrolling employees into the Local Government Pension Scheme and purchasing the RBS Alpha accounting package. Members also considered paying for the floodlights at St Andrews Church and providing some funding towards the Church Hall rebuild.

RESOLVED that

- (a) the Clerk be enrolled in a pension scheme with effect from 1st April 2016, a scheme for the litter operative/handyman would be considered at a later date;
- (b) further information relating to the Local Government Pension Scheme plus one other scheme be gathered to be considered at a future meeting;
- (c) the Parish Council purchase the RBS Alpha accounting package at a cost of £587.00 in order reduce the time spent on financial accounting and to further reduce any risk to public money;
- (d) the Parish Council contribute a maximum of £110.00 towards the electricity for St Andrews Church floodlights for 2016/17. The Parish Council would not pay for maintenance of the lights;
- (e) £2000 be budgeted for the Church Hall rebuild;
- (f) a precept of £57,980 be levied for 2016/17 subject to confirmation of the Local Council Tax Support Grant from Rochford District Council. This figure would be confirmed at the Parish Council meeting on 4th January 2016.

15/165

Reserves

Members reviewed the general and earmarked reserves.

RESOLVED that the following be allocated funding from the reserves to make the earmarked reserves for 2016/17:

IT Equipment	£1,200
External Audit	£500
Street light supply	£2,140
Street Light replacement	£9,000
Elections	£3,500
Asset Maintenance	£2,000
Gate Locking	£3,945
Play equipment	£3,500
Shellfish Packing Station	£1,500
Allotments	£1,250

15/166

Date of next meeting

The next Parish Council Meeting is on Monday 7th December 2015 at 7.30pm.

The meeting was closed at 9.56pm

Chairman's Signature

Dated
7th December 2015