

BRABOURNE PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council
Held at 7.00pm on Thursday 24th January 2013
At Highbank, Canterbury Road, Brabourne

1. Present

Cllr Ede (Chairman), Cllr Hickmott (Vice-Chairman), Cllr Mrs Young, and Mrs Wood (Clerk).

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Mrs Beavers, Cllr Mrs Bewick and Cllrs Mayland and Spokes (prior commitments)

3. Declaration of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest.

4. Draft Budget for 2013-2014

The Clerk presented the draft Budget. The Clerk advised that information on Precept setting had been given at the KALC meeting on 9th January. It is the recommendation from KALC that Precepts rise in advance of capping to cover shortfalls arising from the likely loss of the Concurrent Functions Grant; the Street Cleansing Grant may also be withdrawn. In the light of this information Westwell, Wittersham and Wye Parish Councils are to increase their Precepts by approximately 20%. The Clerk further advised that it is recommended that Reserves should be at least 50% of the Precept; plus £2000 to cover the costs of a by-election and £3000 to cover the costs of a complaint to the Standards Committee. The Chairman noted that ABC has indicated that these would be billed in the next year, the Clerk stated that provision in the Budget would not be possible if a cap is introduced. It was noted that a rise in the Precept although seeming large in percentage terms would not be as significant in the amount per household.

Quotes for maintenance of The Warren were presented from Landscape Services and Harmer & Sons.

A request for a contribution towards purchase of Speedwatch equipment has been received from Smeeth Parish Council, at a cost of ~£2000; grants are also being sought from the ward member and the county councillor.

After lengthy discussion and revision downwards of the proposals to minimise the impact on the Precept:

Resolved:

That the quotation from Harmer & Sons be accepted.

Resolved:

That a contribution towards maintenance of The Warren be sought from Smeeth Parish Council.

Resolved:

That Brabourne Parish Council contributes £500 towards the purchase of Speedwatch equipment, to be funded from Reserves.

Resolved:

That Brabourne Parish Council increases the Precept for 2013-2104 to £13930.

It was noted that if a cap is not introduced and grants are reinstated, increases in the Precept may not be needed in future years and may be reduced.

5. Any other business

The Clerk advised that Awards for All has made a provisional offer of £8500 for security fencing on the allotments' site.

6. Date and Time of Next Meeting

Monday, 28th January 2013, 7.00pm in Brabourne Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.15pm.