

STAPLEHURST PARISH COUNCIL

Committee, Group or Sub Group	
FINANCE	
Meeting Date & Venue	
11 th September, 2013 at the Parish Office	
Report Author	
Sue Bassett RFO	
Report	
<p><u>Present:</u> Chairman John Perry, Councillors Burnham, Kelly, Butcher and Reardon & RFO.</p> <p><u>Apologies:</u> Councillors Green and Lain-Rose.</p> <p><u>Caretaker</u> – Councillors discussed various options to broaden the scope of the Caretaker’s work. Training and health & safety issues could arise. Agreed to keep the issue on the agenda.</p> <p><u>Speeding sign</u> – Noted that County Councillor Hotson was prepared to support funding for a 30mph interactive speed sign between Church Green and South View at the request of nearby residents. The likely cost is in the region of £7,000 and the Parish Council is asked if it would be able to make a contribution. Councillors requested more information as to its design, size, location, etc. Councillors made suggestions for other ways to slow traffic at this point which included gateways, different colour painting of railings, visual kerbing, line edging.</p> <p><u>Precept issues</u> – Chairman Perry mentioned the ongoing discussions between KALC Area Committee and MBC. It was considered that the Government Support Grant would be similar to the current year but rolled into the existing grant. Agreed to “watch this space”. Councils were advised to add extra to the precept. Councillor Butcher suggested that the Chairman wrote a piece in the Village Update to explain the services that the parish provides. RFO to draw up a first budget for consideration. Councillor Kelly advised that the cost for the toilets was likely to rise by £350 and recommended increasing reserves by the £10,000 reduction in the current year.</p> <p><u>Audit Issues</u> – Chairman Perry reported that a meeting with the Internal Auditor was scheduled for the following day. A Meeting note of this would be circulated as evidence for the External Auditor that best practice was being followed.</p> <p><u>Any other business</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. <u>Presentation of accounts</u> – A revised Summation of accounts was considered which used no management jargon. Councillors discussed the proposed headings and a number of amendments alongside those of the Clerk. Such accounting information had never been published recently but this enabled a clearer format. RFO to use this format for the new budget 2014/2015.2. <u>Bell Lane Car Park</u> – Chairman Perry would raise the Lease issue with Councillor Hotson at the next meeting on Friday. Also check the lie of the land regarding Surrenden Playing Field.3. <u>Insurance</u> – Councillors noted Came & Co’s insurance renewal quotation and the 5% reduction option for 3-year Long Term Agreement at £4,330.79. Councillors agreed unanimously to recommend to Full Council the acceptance of the 3-year option.4. <u>Neighbourhood Plan Banner</u> – Councillors agreed the purchase of a 5’ x 2.5’ banner at £60 to advertise the Neighbourhood Plan event plus bungees to make attachments. Councillor Kelly volunteered to work on designs for other signs to fit around the flower tubs.5. <u>Uprockin 2013</u> – The Clerk circulated the final statement of account for Uprockin to show overall expenditure of £3,973.01, £2,000 of which had been donated by KCC & MBC.	
Date & Venue of next meeting	
TBA	