

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF STAPLEHURST PARISH COUNCIL
FINANCE GROUP

held at The Parish Office on 5th January 2012 at 7.30 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillors Tom Burnham, Paul Butcher, Paul Kelly, John Reardon and John Perry who was in the Chair

APOLOGIES: Councillor Simon Green whose reason for apology was accepted.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES and ISSUES ARISING:

1. Minute Page 121F of 31st October 2011 were noted, approved and signed.
2. Outstanding items from 116F-117F included Jubilee Maintenance Agreement and Councillor expenses. Chairman Perry apologised for not having progressed these issues. It was understood Councillor Silkin was working on a new Maintenance Agreement draft.
3. Outstanding from 118F-119F & 121F; Review of Council Insurance cover. Full details of the recently updated cover had been circulated for information. Councillors did not recommend taking up the optional business interruption insurance cover.

CURRENT ISSUE FOR CONSIDERATION

Clerk's Report and Recommendations following Staff Appraisals dated 27/10/11 were considered at length. Councillors recommended the Clerk's working hours reduce to 30 per week, Monday-Thursdays and to employ an administrative assistant Thursdays and Fridays. It was also recommended to stop selling MBC garden waste sacks.

BUDGET 2011-2012

Summation to 03/01/12 was noted.

BUDGET 2012-2013

1. Fifth draft budget was discussed (aligned to 03/01/12 Summation, MBC Precept Calculation figure & revised Churchyard Budget). Councillors recommended a net precept requirement of £96,100 which would reflect a 15% increase on the previous year and an estimated Parish Precept per Band D property of £40.40 per year.
2. Subscriptions 2012/2013 – After a short discussion Councillors recommended taking up the following five subscriptions:- Journal of Local Planning £50 p.a., KALC, SLCC, Hawkhurst Transport Forum £12 p.a., National Society of Allotment & Leisure Gardeners Ltd. £55 p.a.
3. Chairman's allowance & Councillor expenses feedback from other Parishes report was noted with interest. Councillors recommended maintaining the current status quo of Chairman's Allowance only.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: To be agreed.

Chairman.....