

**Wheathampstead Parish Council
Finance Committee
26 January 2011, 19.30h**

Present	Councillors	I Begg A Brewster G Clark N Clements T Reason K Stammers S Walford	Chairman
		Julia Warren	Clerk to the Council
		Press	0
		Public	0

1636-11 Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors J Burgess, J Turner, A Waterfield (personal reasons) and D Hills (meeting).

1637-11 Questions from the Public

None.

1638-11 Specific Declarations of Interest

None

1639-11 Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 21 January 2010 were reviewed. These had been approved by January 2010 Council. The Finance Committee of Wheathampstead Parish Council comprises all councillors and the recommendations of it go to January Council. It was agreed that the minutes of this meeting be approved on 27 January 2011 Council.

Councillor Clements moved To exclude the press and public, as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest due to the confidential nature of the business to be discussed (LGA 1972 Sch 12A Part 1). The motion was not seconded and thus fell.

Resolved To review the Minutes of the meeting held on 21 January 2010 and for the Minutes of this Committee, 26 January 2011 to be signed by the Chairman at Council on 27 January 2011.

1640-11 Report on Bank Balances

It was reported that as at 31 December 2010 balances stood at £287,893 as shown in the budget papers, reconciliation of the bank statements would be available at the Council meeting on 27 January 2011.

Recommended To note the report

1641-11 Review of Standing Orders and Financial Regulations

It had been agreed at Minute 1530-10 that Standing Orders and Financial Regulations as adopted January 2009 would be reviewed at Council on 27 January.

Recommended To note the report

1642-11 Budget 2011–2012 & Precept Recommendation

The Chairman stated that he was pleased to note that all committees had been carefully monitoring their budgets over the current year and all remained in budget. The apparent overspend on Rights of Way Committee shown against the Station Platform project was offset by donations received. In the current austere financial climate he suggested that the Parish Council should work towards maintaining a flat precept for the next few years. Wheathampstead Parish Council's precept had been set at £190,061 in 2009-10 and £189,651 in 2010-11.

The budget recommendations as put forward by committees compiled into the 'budget spreadsheet' and previously circulated were discussed. This represented no material difference in precept level. The format was similar to previous years with each committee expenditure divided into maintenance (ongoing/running) costs and project (one-off) costs. The Clerk reported that the draft budget proposal included an expenditure line for grant monies, including the LSP Targeting Change grant for the Heritage Trail received and banked but not yet spent. Councillor Clements reported on comparative precept levels for local parishes in 2010-11.

The Chairman proposed that the draft budget be accepted as presented and recommended that Council set a budget for 2011-12 of £320 002 with precept of £189 668

Recommendation

- 1 To accept the budget as presented at Finance Committee**
- 2 To set a precept at the next formal Parish Council Meeting, 27 January 2011 based upon this budget amounting to £189,668.**

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 19.50h.

Dated this day of 2011

Chairman