

# **BARLING MAGNA PARISH COUNCIL**

## **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**Minutes** of the Barling Magna Parish Council Finance Committee held on Thursday 7th January, 2016 held in St Mary's Church, Little Wakering Road, Little Wakering, Essex commencing at 7.00 p.m.

Present: - Councillors A. Ashdown, M. Cohen, M. Steptoe and L. Street.

In attendance: - J. Watson (Parish Clerk).

### **MINUTES**

- 1. The outgoing Chair to declare the meeting open.**
  - a. Councillor Steptoe declared the meeting open.
- 2. To receive apologies for absence.**
  - a. There were no apologies for absence.
- 3. To appoint a Chair of the Committee for the 2015/2016 Parish Council Year.**
  - a. Proposed Councillor Cohen, seconded Councillor Ashdown that Councillor Steptoe be appointed Chair of the Finance Committee for the 2015/2016 Parish Council Year. 3 for, 1 abstention. Carried.
- 4. To receive Declarations of Interest in accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct and with section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.**
  - a. Councillors Cohen and Steptoe declared an interest as Council tax payers.
- 5. To sign as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting of the Finance Committee held on 4th December, 2014.**
  - a. Proposed Councillor Street, seconded Councillor Cohen that the Minutes of the meeting of the Finance Committee held on 4<sup>th</sup> December, 2014 be signed as a correct record. Carried unanimously.
- 6. The meeting will stand adjourned to permit Parishioners of Barling Magna to address the Council.**
  - a. No Parishioners were present to address the meeting.
- 7. To review the financial records for the year to date.**
  - a. The financial records for the year to date were noted.

**8. To consider the budget for the 2016/2017 Financial Year and to agree the recommendations to be made to Council.**

- a. The draft budget which had been circulated prior to the meeting was noted,
- b. It was recommended that the Clerk remove the provision for the refurbishment of the Village Hall from the budget projection and show this item separately. Various small amendments were suggested resulting in a revised budget figure for the 2016/2017 year of £43,962.
- c. It was noted that the LCTS Grant would be reducing from £2,166 in 2015/2016 to £1,662 in 2016/2017.
- d. Proposed Councillor Street, seconded Councillor Ashdown that it be recommended to Council that the precept be increased by 3% resulting in a precept for 2016/2017 (excluding LCTS Grant) of £36,152. It was noted that this would give a total income for 2016/2017 of £37,814, an increase over 2015/2016 of £549. 3 for, 1 abstention. Carried.

**9. To approve the amended Financial Regulations.**

- a. The Clerk explained that the proposed Financial Regulations as tabled at the meeting were based on the standard NALC Financial Regulations. They had been amended to take into account the financial limits required by the Parish Council and to bring them into line with the tendering limits as specified in the recently agreed Standing Orders,
- b. Proposed Councillor Street, seconded Councillor Ashdown that the amended Financial Regulations be submitted to Council for approval.

**10. To receive a report from the Clerk on a possible conflict of interest in respect of the Internal Auditors and to agree the recommendation to be made to Council.**

- a. The Clerk reported that he had recently commenced working for Auditing Solutions Ltd who were the Parish Council's Internal Auditors. He would not be carrying out any audits in the Rochford District and the audit of Barling would be carried out by the Managing Director of Auditing Solutions who would ensure that Chinese Walls would be put in place to ensure confidentiality.
- b. It was agreed to recommend to Council that they accept this situation.

**11. At the Chair's discretion to exchange information on financial matters relating to the Parish Council.**

- a. No information was exchanged.

**Meeting closed at 8.30 pm**

**Issued 20th January, 2016.**