

## BENSON PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Hall, Sunnyside, Benson, Wallingford. OX10 6LZ  
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### Minutes of the Benson Parish Council Finance Committee held on On Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2015 at 7:30PM in the Pavilion

Present:	Cllr P. Peers	(PP)
	Cllr J. Fowler	(JF)
	Cllr R. Jordan	(RJ)
	Cllr T. Mcteague	(TM)
	Cllr P Baylis	(PB)
	Cllr M Winton	(MW)
Proper Officer:	Anna Field	(RFO)
Also Present:	Peter Eldridge	(CLK)

Cllr J Fowler took the Chair of the meeting.

1. **Apologies** – None
2. **Declarations of Interest** – None declared
3. **Public Session** – There were no members of the public present.
4. **Minutes of the last meeting** – The minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> November 2015 were signed at the Benson Parish Council meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> November 2015.

5. **Budget 2016/17 and Precept:**

The committee reviewed the second draft of the 2016-17 budget as amended at the 17<sup>th</sup> November meeting and the following further adjustments were made:

Administration Part 2

Software maintenance and subscriptions - £1000 removed as budget now incorporated into IT (project) budget

Legal and Professional fees - £1000 removed as budget now incorporated into Legal Fees (project) budget

Further Education Tuition - £1000 reduced to £500

Halls

Parish Hall;

Electricity reduced from £3800 to £2500

Furniture and Equipment reduced from £2000 to £1000

CCTV reduced from £4000 to £3580

Payphone budget removed.

Youth Hall;

Water reduced from £800 to £600

Maintenance reduced from £1300 to £1000

Furniture and Equipment reduced from £500 to £200

Consumables reduced from £400 to £100

Pavilion;

Maintenance reduced from £1000 to £500

Furniture and equipment reduced from £200 to £100

Consumables reduced from £200 to £100

#### Recreation and Lands

Village;

Village Centre reduced from £500 to £300

Public Toilet reduced from £1000 to £500

Dog Waste collection reduced from £700 to £500

Play Equipment budget removed

Rivermead;

Maintenance and equipment reduced from £600 to £400

Pool maintenance reduced from £2000 to £0

Allotments;

Water reduced from £1000 to £700

Maintenance reduced from £600 to £200

#### Projects

Precept project commitments for 2016/17 were set at £81450

With a reserves input of £71,233, this leads to a precept of £125,607 which represents a 4% increase on the 2015-16 budget. The band d contribution will be £74.21 rising from the 2015-16 band d figure of £71.36.

RFO

RFO to update all budget sheets and circulate to all councillors

**Members resolved by a majority of 3 with 1 against and 2 abstentions to make the following recommendation to full council;**

**Recommendation to Full Council to set the budget for 2016-17 with a net expenditure/precept of £125,607. With a tax base for the year of 1692.5, a precept of £125,607 amounts to £74.21 per annum per band D dwelling, an increase of 4% on the 2015-16 band D figure of £71.36**

#### **6. Any Other Items to Note or for the Next Agenda.**

Cllr Peers enquired about the current invoicing situation with regards to hall hiring as invoices seem to be going out late. Item to be added to the Tech Committee Agenda to discuss shared PCs in the Parish Office

PB

RFO to check whether the Tennis Club are being invoiced and whether the Fish and Chip van are being invoiced for their electricity	RFO
Cllr Peers commented on the level of funds in the Council's Current Account and asked the RFO to look at opportunities to reorganise funds generally across the various bank accounts	RFO
External Auditor arrangements to be on the agenda for the next meeting	RFO
Finance Regulations and Standing Orders to be on the agenda for the next meeting	RFO
Cllr McTeague requested a breakdown of which hall users are not paying for their use of the facilities. Also a copy of any guidelines that may exist detailing authority levels for decisions about free use.	RFO
Hall hiring rates to be added to the Halls agenda towards financial year end (March 2016)	TT
Clerk to set up a liaison meeting with the football club to discuss their terms of use.	PCE
RFO to summarise VAT situation with regard to block bookings of football pitches.	RFO
RFO to investigate rent review opportunities for the tennis club	

7. **Date of Next Meeting.** 19<sup>th</sup> January 2016

Anna Field Responsible Finance Officer 2nd December 2015