

Selattyn and Gobowen Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 2nd February 2011 at The Pavilion, St Martins Road Gobowen commencing at 7.00 pm

In the Chair – Councillor R. Jones

Present:

Councillors: D Lloyd, S Crow, R. Bowyer, T. Kirk, P. Clare, M. Ambridge, R. Jones, P. Cherrington, E. Morgan, I Bennett, P Drury, J Thorpe

1 To receive apologies and reasons for absence

Anne Evans - illness

M Turner - away

RESOLVED to accept the apologies and reasons for absence

2 Declaration of Interest

“To receive declarations of Interest of personal and prejudicial interest on any item on the agenda in accordance with Section 50-52 of the Local Government Act & The Local Authorities (Model Code of Conduct) England Order 2007”

None

3. Fees and Charges for 2011-12 – to consider set the following charges following consideration of the recommendations of the Playing Field and Cemetery Committees

a) Pavilion Hire Charges – Cllr Crow reported that the Pavilion and Playing Field Committee wish to keep hire charges at the same rate as 2010-11 to encourage people to use the pavilion.

RESOLVED to keep the charges the same as last year as per the recommendations of the Pavilion and Playing Field Committee.

b) Hengoed Cemetery –Burial fees and plot purchase fees – Cllr Kirk reported that the Cemetery Committee recommended that fees for both plot purchase and burials be raised as an increase has not been made for 2 years.

RESOLVED to increase the fees as per the recommendations of the Cemetery Committee

c) Gobowen Allotments – It was reported that the Finance Committee recommended that the rents stay the same as last year, however the clerk reported that she had received a request from the Allotment Association that the rents be reduced by £10. Cllr Ambridge outlined the reasons for this request.

Following a discussion it was proposed that the rents stay the same and following a vote 11 in favour 1 abstention this motion was carried.

RESOLVED rents for 2011-12 stay the same as for 2010-11 as per the Finance Committee's recommendation.

All Fees and charges in appendix a

4. 2011-12 Budget

a) To consider the budget recommendations of the following committees

i) Pavilion and Playing Field – Cllr Crow reported that the Pavilion and Playing Field Committee had put together a list of urgent work that would have an impact on the maintenance budget. The work included

Replace all guttering soffits and fascia boards – Cllr Jones reported that a total replacement was not necessary as much of the wood was in good condition.

Replace water pipes with plastic pipes and fix stop tap

Repair/ replace emergency exit doors.

Alter disabled access ramp to stop the damp course being breached

Insulation for the roof of the building – some discussion took place on how effective this work would be.

Decorating the inside of the building.

In order to pay for this work the committee recommended that the maintenance budget be increased from £3500 to £5000. All other budget areas would stay the same with the exception of play equipment which would be reduced to £500

RESOLVED to agree the recommendations of the committee.

ii) Hengoed Cemetery – Cllr Kirk presented the budget recommendations of the Cemetery Committee which were **AGREED**. A further recommendation of the committee was that the Parish Council set up a separate Cemetery Extension Bank Account into which any surplus accumulated from the cemetery budget would be transferred in order to make sure that funds are ringfenced to enable the purchase of land for a cemetery extension in the future.

Following a discussion it was **RESOLVED** that the reserve account be used as Cemetery Extension Account and that the transfer of surplus funds would take place on an annual basis from March 2012.

b) To consider the report and recommendations from the finance committee meeting held 19th January 2011 (appendix 1)

The Clerk reported recommendations of the finance committee which were as follows

1. Staff Costs – stay same with a pay freeze for all staff. The Clerk reported that she had changed the presentation of this part of the budget to show only the Employers National Insurance contribution as per the internal auditor's recommendations

RESOLVED to agree this recommendation

2. Administration – The Committee recommended a decrease on last year's budget as the number of Local Council Review's had been reduced and the website had no associated costs. A discussion took place on the office expenses and it was **RESOLVED** to increase these to £700 in light of the fact that Shropshire Council had withdrawn its offer of free ink and paper and to make provision for the purchase of a new lap top.

3. Projects – The Committee recommended a decrease on last year’s budget in the following area

Allotments – no additional budget provision required as work on the allotments could be funded through rents. The Committee also recommended an increase in the budget for the Parish Roundabout as the circulation had increased and the advertising revenue could not be guaranteed

RESOLVED to agree the recommendations

4. Civic Costs and Grants – The Committee recommended a decrease on last year’s budget for grants by 50% as they considered that The Big Lottery Fund will be up and running in the next 12 months so local groups will be able to use this to access funds as well as the Local Joint Committee grants.

RESOLVED to agree the recommendations

5. Running Costs – The Committee recommended a reduction in the allocation for new lights by £2000. – Following a discussion on the condition of streetlights it was agreed that this was not sufficient and it was proposed that the amount stay the same at £5000

Increase allocation by £1000 to £9000 for streetlight running costs in light of increased electricity bills. All other running costs stay the same.

RESOLVED to agree the committees recommendations apart from the reduction of budget for new streetlights

c) To agree the budget for 2011-12 – Once the discussions on each budget area were concluded it was

RESOLVED to set an expenditure budget of £75124 full budget breakdown listed in appendix b.

d) To set the precept for 2011-12

A discussion took place on the need to increase the precept to a sufficient level to not only cover expenditure but to also enable the Council to have some surplus in the light of the threat that Parish Council precepts may be capped in the future.

Cllr Bowyer proposed that the precept be raised by £8000 to allow a prudent surplus to be created seconded Cllr Ambridge

Cllr Bennett proposed an amendment that the precept be raised by £6000 to ensure a balanced budget was set seconded Cllr Drury

A vote on the amendment that the precept be raised by £6000 resulted in 5 in favour 7 against

A vote on the original proposal of increasing the precept by £8000 resulted in 6 councillors being in favour and 6 against.

The original proposal was carried

RESOLVED that the precept for 2011-12 be increased to £63000

Meeting ended 8.06