

NEWICK PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE OF THE ABOVE-NAMED PARISH HELD ON TUESDAY, 13th November, 2012 AT NEWICK SPORTS PAVILION ALLINGTON ROAD COMMENCING AT 5.45 P.M.

PRESENT: Cllr. C. Jago (Chairman for this committee)
Cllr. R. Houghton
Cllr. J. Lucas
Cllr. Mrs. M. Thew
Mrs. L. M. Farmer Clerk for the Council
Mrs. S. Berry Clerk for the Council

1. **APOLOGIES:** None
2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** There were no Declarations of Interest.
3. **QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC:** No members of the public were present.
4. **REVIEW OF OUTTURN AS AT END OF OCTOBER, 2012:** Copies of the Outturn had been circulated. The Chairman went through the outturn adjusting the Clerk's (L. M. Farmer) Gratuity figure and the Contingency figure. The Committee approved these figures and recommended that these be approved by Council.
5. **Draft Budget for 2013/2014:** The Chairman went through the draft Receipts and Payments Budgets adjusting the amounts expected to be received and paid out:-
Village Fun Day reduced to £100.00 in and out.
Clerk's Salary, Superannuation, Home Allowance (which overall had very little impact), Village Maintenance increased slightly to allow for any increase in the hourly rate or additional hours.
£200.00 to cover mileage expenses incurred by Councillors.
It was noted that there was unlikely to be any large balance at the end of the year to be carried forward or put away in reserves.
The Committee approved that these draft budgets for Receipts and Payments be recommended to Council for approval. The budget assumes the Precept will not increase from £54,400 and it is recognized that due to the additional housing in Alexander Mead and Allington Gardens this may marginally reduce the precept paid by Newick residents. However this does not take into account any decision relating to the change to the rules for Council Tax Benefit and until this is known, a formal application cannot be made to Lewes District Council
6. **Financial Regulations:**
The Clerk to correct some numbering which was incorrect before circulating as shown below.
The current Financial Regulations were adopted by the Council at its Meeting on 23rd May 2011. They contain a small error in that there are two Paragraphs No. 19
Renumber **REVISION OF FINANCIAL REGULATIONS** as Para 21
Councillors and Employees Expenses – The Committee wished to recommend that the Council adopt the following amendment to the Financial Regulations:-

20. EXPENSES

The Council's employees and Councillors may claim for reasonable receipted Out of Pocket Expenses incurred whilst performing duties of the Council (including attending approved Courses) outside the Parish of Newick. Car mileage can also be claimed at a rate agreed from time to time by Council.

Any expense likely to exceed £50 including prospective over night expenses must be authorized in advance by 2 Councillors, one of whom should be the Chairman, Vice Chairman or Chairman of F&GP.

It was further proposed that the Council accept the Car Mileage expenses are paid at 45p per mile until further notice or as advised by SALC / NALC. It was noted that this was maximum figure that could be applied without incurring tax.

7. **Press, Media, Bloggers – Department of Communities and Local Government:** It was noted that Cllr. Allen had reported that there were no significant changes to the Standing Orders which NALC had stated would not be reviewed until 2014 and therefore it was not necessary to carry out a full review. However he would prepare a item relating to the mobile telephones, press, media, bloggers etc to be included in the existing Standing Orders in due course once approved by Council.

8. **DATE FOR NEXT MEETING:** The next meeting scheduled to be held in 8th January, 2013.

9. **ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING:** None identified

Meeting Closed at 6.25 p.m.

Signed: Chairman Dated:

**The Clerk Mrs. Linda M. Farmer, 7 Oldaker Road, Newick, Lewes, East Sussex BN8 4LN
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