

WINDLE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting held on Thursday 17th January 2013 at 26 Kin Lane St Helens

Present : Councillor Mrs. N. J. Ashcroft (Chairman)
 “ W. Ashcroft (Vice- Chairman)
 “ Mrs. K. S. Barton (Immediate Past Chairman)
 “ R. W. Barton

Also in Attendance: L. J. Kilshaw (Clerk to the Council)

1. External Audit 2011/12 – The Clerk reported that this had been carried out to the auditor’s satisfaction and the necessary documents had been posted on the notice boards as is legally required.

He further stressed the need to ensure that a risk assessment is carried out, at least once a year, and reviewed again and confirmed. This involves an examination of all Council procedures and practices.

2. Internal Audit 2012/13- The audit to the end of November 2012, had been carried out by Philip Fairclough and he had given a satisfactory report, and no issues had been raised.

3. Balances/ Precept – The Clerk submitted a verbal report on the anticipated balances at the 31st March 2013. It was anticipated that, mainly due to the reduction achieved in the charges for security at Lynton Way Play Area that the balance would be greater at the end of this financial year. However the provision for Election costs needs to be at £1250 p.a. = (£5000 over 5 years) as this is the cost experienced by some local Parish Councils.

4. Future Projects- In the current financial climate it may prove necessary to postpone all, but the most essential, and it will be necessary to either repair, or replace, the notice board at Bleak Hill School. Cllr. W. Ashcroft undertook to investigate further. The Council computer would need replacing with a lap-top version shortly.

5. Precept 2013/ 2014- A letter had been received from St Helens Council advising the Council Tax base for the Parish set at 970 9 Band D and that it was proposed to pay the precept on the basis of, 50% on April 2013, and 50% on the June 2013. The Windle Parish Council had agreed these dates and a letter of acceptance sent to confirm this. It was recommended that, if possible, the Precept be kept at £12750, but it would need to be fully discussed at the February Parish Council meeting, before the decision be ratified.

The meeting closed at 8.20pm.

Signed -----(Chairman)-----(Date)