

**MINUTES OF FINANCE COMMITTEE HELD ON 28th SEPTEMBER 2011
IN THE JOHN VENUS HALL, COLDHARBOUR**

PRESENT: Mr Salter (Chairman), Mrs Schryver, Mrs Pearson, Mr Dale, Mrs Parrish, Mr McLachlan and Mrs Coke (Clerk)

1. APOLOGIES: none

2. MINUTES: The minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on 4th May 2011 were agreed as a correct record.

3. DECLARATION OF INTEREST: None.

4. MATTERS ARISING

None

5. BUDGET MONITORING and PROFIT AND LOSS TO 31.08.11

Reserves at 31.08.11 stood at:

Nat West Current a/c - £12,054

NSB Investment a/c - £30,016

Profit and loss = (-) 8,919. Exclusive of Beare Green Hall grant = (+£181)

Figures for Monitoring against budget are attached.

Notes on budget monitoring:

Burial Ground fees - The number of burials is currently considerably down for the year 2011/12.

Easement sales – related to Thasset , Newdigate Rd.

Contribution to BP 214 (Misbrooks Green) – Total cost of resurface was £1,915- residents contributions towards this were £1,250, with a cost of £665 to the PC. Efforts are still being made to obtain a contribution from Countryside Access towards this.

Burial Ground costs incurred were £1,475. – of this £560 was paid to Burleys to grub out Lime suckers, level and seed on the southern boundary of the re burials site. There was a cost of £375 for survey and gridding the reburials site. These costs had been agreed as quid pro quo to St John the Baptist church for the faculty to allow reburials so avoiding a major capital investment by the PC for a new Burial Ground.

Miscellaneous cost - £11 paid to Ede Bros for archiving PC back data

Grants Paid - £9,100 paid to BG Hall refurbishment fund; £1,500 paid to Police off road motor-bike scheme (letter of thanks now received).

6. REVIEW OF BURIAL GROUND FEES

The Clerk had drawn up a new scale of fees in line with Betchworth's fees, however, it was considered that fees should be brought in line with those at Dorking Cemetery (run by MVDC) The Clerk to obtain the comparative figures.

7. RISK ASSESSMENT 2011

The annual Financial Risk Assessment was conducted by the Chair of the Finance Committee and Clerk on 14.09.2011. The need to follow up on raising Burial fees was recorded.

8. ADDITIONAL BUDGET REQUIREMENTS 2011/12

a) Gritting and grit bins: Purchase of bins available from Highways @ £1,000 for 4 yrs + X 2 fills of grit per annum depending on available supplies. Alternatively grit bins are available from an independent source at £144 +VAT plus 1 tonne grit bags (enough to fill the bin twice) for £160 +VAT. Coldharbour are considering purchase of 18 bins + grit and Capel 3 bins +grit (one for Coldharbour)

It is not the intention for highways to use farmers for precautionary salting which would also be in contravention of HMRC regulations for the use of red diesel for winter service. Anstie Lane was treated 5 times last winter as part of the priority 2 salting network. The farmers snow ploughing contracts are set up to allow farmers to plough once accumulations reach 50mm.

The position on insurance for those using / spreading the grit must be clarified before any progress can be made on this.

Mrs Schryver to establish with SCAPTC / Roger Taylor of Hedleys Solicitors what the insurance liability would be.

Zurich Town and Parish indicate that to increase existing £10M Public Liability cover to include spreading of grit by public would increase premium by at least £200 / annum.

The Clerk has already written to Cllr Clack regarding the above matters, as yet no reply. Cllr Watson has offered £4,000 towards additional costs through the Local Committee.

Cllr McLachlan to ask all C/H residents proposing to purchase grit bins / spread grit to check with their household insurance providers to clarify exactly what their situation would be regarding liability.

It would require a full Council debate on the matter before any commitment can be made by the Council.

b) Purchase of disease free Elm trees.

It was decided to recommend to the full Council that at least 3 x 10ft trees be purchased at a cost of £120 each (as per Minutes of full Council meeting 19.09.11), one for each ward. However, locations for planting would be more of an issue. It was thought that there would be room for two trees on Misbrooks Green. Further investigations would be made re suitable locations.

9. MISBROOKS GREEN

Committee members agreed to Mr Dale's request that he 'top' the grass on Misbrooks Green, the first cut having been made earlier than usual in June.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 16TH November 2011 in the Beare Green Village Hall, Merebank at 8.00PM