

Minutes of the Meeting of Doddinghurst Parish Council Finance and Resource Committee held on Wednesday 10th October 2012 @ 20.00, Parish Room, Doddinghurst Road, Doddinghurst.

Present: Cllrs. Mrs Dicker (Chairman), A. Farrow, G.W. Bateson, G. Smith, C Enderby

1. **Apologies for absence.** None absent
2. **Declaration of Interests relating to items on the agenda.** None declared.
3. **Resolved:** Approved: Minutes of the meeting held on 16th May 2012.
4. **Information: Update on actions since last meeting.**
 - Audit for 2011/12 Signed off without comment and notices of closure posted...
 - BBC Partnership Agreement (V2) signed and returned.
5. **Information:** Parish Council Funding under LCTS consultation. Noted the technical consultation on the changes to benefit arrangements and how it could impact precept charges in the future. Noted that a grant of £19,000 in 2013/14 have been provided by central government to BBC to offset impact on Parish Councils. Noted BBC's intention to calculate precept tax base before benefit reduction applied. Noted that in future these safeguards may not apply and the changes could affect the parish Council tax base but at this stage no further information is available.
6. **Information:** Budget review: Outturn from 2012/13. The 2012/13 spend to date against budget was reviewed and overall is on track with no major discrepancies.
7. **Information:** BBC Draft 2013/14 precept timetable. Noted: The timetable provided by BBC means that approval of a Parish Precept will occur at the Full Council meeting in January 2013.
8. **Resolved:** Approved in principle, Doddinghurst Parish Council's proposal for a SLA to be associated with BBC Partnership Agreement.
9. **Resolved:** Approved in principle: Doddinghurst Parish Council's Compensation Grant submission (for 2013/14) at £47,000.
10. **Information:** 2013/14 Precept requirement assessment. It was agreed that until the outcome from the compensation grant submission was known the level of precept required for 2013/14 was currently indeterminate. At the current time the Parish Councils spending power is approximately £7000 below that available in 2006/7 - (Due to loss of grant and inflation). It was recognised that the government is pressing Councils to restrain council tax rises and this pressure is likely to continue into the foreseeable future but the compound rate of inflation since 2006/7 has been close to 24%. The Government were considering requiring a referendum for any council planning an increase above two per cent in 2013-14.
11. **Any Other Urgent Business strictly for information only.** None raised.

The meeting was closed at 22.15

Signed:

Dated: 16th Jan 2013