

Minutes of a Meeting of Doddinghurst Parish Council Finance and Resource Committee held on Wednesday 18th November 2015 @ 20.00, Parish Room, Doddinghurst Road, Doddinghurst.

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

1. **Apologies for absence.** None
2. **Declaration of Interests relating to items on the agenda.** None declared.
3. **Approved:** Minutes of the meeting held on 19th Nov 2014. (May 2015 meeting non quorate).
4. **Information:** Update on actions since last meeting.
 - External audit signed off with no comments and the notice of audit completion posted.
 - 2015/16. Risk schedules completed.
 - New 2015 Openness and Transparency legislation circulated
5. **Information:** Noted: 2015/6 budget review and forecast to the end of March 2017.
6. **Information:** Noted: Assumptions about 2016/17 grant and cost trends, including pay.
7. **Information: Noted:** A 15 year sustainability review, and potential future financial needs assessment, for the Parish Council of Village Assets, to include: Allotments, Village Hall, Recreational Fields, Play Areas, Football Fields, Burial Ground etc., to inform item 9 below, was undertaken. The Clerk is to update the review as a result of discussion. A provisional programme for Children's Play Area renovation was discussed with a project to utilise this year's CIF award of £20,000 and a Dagwood Trust Award of £6000, in 2016/17. A further project in 2017/18 will be required to complete the safer surfacing renovations.
8. **Information:** Noted that Staff Pension provision by local Essex Town and Parish Councils is being based on the Essex County Council Pension Fund. The auto enrolment staging date for Doddinghurst Parish Council is 1st Jan 2017 and approval of which scheme to adopt is a key decision for the Council in the autumn of 2016 and once made cannot be easily reversed. Previous concerns that employers would have to fund Essex County Council pension fund potential shortfalls have proved false.
9. **Resolved:** Approved a budget for 2016/17 and 2016/17 precept recommendation of £55,769.20p to Full Council in January 2016. The recommendations are based on the policy approved at the 16th October 2013 meeting of the Finance and Resource committee items 7(a) and 7(b) and on status quo of the Borough Council discretionary grant at £13,722 and Localisation of Council Tax Grant of £3,473 being funded by central government. The proposed outcome is a rise of precept by £3.21 a year for a Band D property (£0.06p per week). Noted that a Borough Council Parish Liaison meeting is being held on the 30th November 2015 but as the government does not normally announce its council funding details until mid-December the final results are not expected to be known until the third week of December 2015.
10. **Any Other Urgent Business strictly for information only.** None raised

The meeting was closed at 22.00

Signed:.....Deborah Dicker (Chairman)

Dated: 18th May 2016