

Minutes of an Extraordinary Meeting of Doddinghurst Parish Council held at 20.00 on Thursday 23rd May 2013, Parish Room, (adj. Village Hall), Church Lane, Doddinghurst.

Present: Cllrs. Mrs D Dicker (Chairman), Mrs J Le Page, Mrs D Rogers Harrison, A Farrow, P Arnell

- 1. Apologies for Absence.** Received from: Cllrs. A Oliver, A Smith, G Smith, C Enderby, G W Bateson, D Potter.
- 2. 🖐️ Resolved.** The committee approved the closure of the meeting to the public and the press.
- 3. Objective of meeting.** The objective of the meeting is to discuss the future funding arrangements available to the Parish Council and to agree, in principle, a way forward.
- 4. Content of the meeting:** The Clerk presented five items:
 - a) How the current Parish Council funds are allocated and how cash flow over a one year period operates on a 6 monthly cycle. The twin challenge arising on operational costs and capital project funding.
 - b) The long term funding issue created by falling income (in real terms) and rising costs. The threat created by the localisation of Council Tax reducing the Tax base by 8.6%, the lack of any real intent by the Borough Council to tackle Double Taxation, and future costs of employment requiring a Clerks pension fund. The prediction is that by 2015 average annual costs will start to exceed average annual income (in cash terms) but inflation is seriously eroding the spending power of the Parish Council.
 - c) An analysis of the sources of funds available to the Parish Council.
 - d) Fund raising options and how they can be mixed and matched.
 - e) Cost Benefit review of Parish Assets.
- 5. Councillor views.** The meeting was poorly attended and only just quorate so no resolution was taken, however feedback from councillors on a Yes/No table of options was captured and revealed a mixed view of how future funding was to be handled.
- 6. Conclusion.** No clear conclusion was possible and the presentation needs to be repeated at a later date.

The meeting closed at 21.45

Minutes Signed

Date: 6th June 2013