

## **COUNCIL MEETING – 27 NOVEMBER 2007**

### **ITEM 9(a): FINANCE COMMITTEE**

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Notes of meeting of Finance Committee held on 21 November 2007

Present: Cllr G James (Chairman); Cllr Lady Kara Hawks and Cllr J Samways

#### 1. DRAFT BUDGET, 2008/09

The Committee considered draft estimates for the financial year 2008/09 and proposed variations as shown below:

**Clerk's salary:** 2007/08 settlement now announced (new salary bands circulated at the meeting). Scales have increased by around 2½% compared to the budget estimate of 3½%. Current year salary thereby reduces by £50 to £5110.

For 2008/09, Committee propose moving the Clerk's salary from scp 22 to scp 23 (equivalent salary £5260 at 2007/08 scale). Employer NI charges of approx £10 will also accrue.

**Telephone:** Propose moving to a combined broadband/telephone package with Tiscali with immediate effect to increase operational efficiency. Additional cost approx £40 in 2007/08 and £100 in 2008/09.

**Printer:** Printer now 4 years old and occasionally malfunctions. Machine will hopefully continue for coming year but consider provision for new printer in 2009/10.

**Splitwind Pond:** Chairman to undertake tidying work in 2007/08. Consider using contract gardener from 2008/09 onwards.

**Grants:** Members reviewed the current policy of allocating grants to an established list of recipients year-on-year. Noted also that a number of additional grant requests had been turned down in the current year. In addition, the proposal for upgrading Stanleys Own and/or producing a Council newsletter had not yet been finalised. Committee therefore recommends allocating a block sum of £1850 for grants in 2008/09, the individual allocations to be agreed after further discussion.

**Elections:** Administration charges of £172 will apply for the uncontested Parish Council election in 2007. The next elections are due in 2011 and NFDC suggests making annual budget provision to ensure that funds are available for a possible contested election. The Committee recommends an annual sum of £500.

With the proposed amendments, the projected year-end balance at 31 March 2009 will be £3657, made up as follows:

General Fund	£1080		
Special Funds	£2577	(Maintenance	£1500
		(Clerk's gratuity	£577
		(Elections	£500)

On balance, it was felt that the precept could be held at £10,000 for next year.

A copy of the draft estimates is attached, **with the proposed amendments shown in the penultimate column.**

RECOMMENDED:

- (1) That the Clerk's salary be increased from scp 22 to scp 23 with effect from 1 April 2008;
- (2) That the Council move to a combined broadband/telephone package with Tiscali with immediate effect;
- (3) That a sum of £1850 be allocated for grants in 2008/09 and that further discussions are held to agree detailed grant allocations;
- (4) That a sum of £500 be included annually in the estimates to meet the cost of any contested Parish Council elections
- (5) That the precept remain at £10,000 for 2008/09;
- (6) That, subject to (1) to (5) above, the amended draft estimates be approved;