

COUNCIL MEETING – 24 NOVEMBER 2009

ITEM 10(a): FINANCE COMMITTEE

Notes of meeting of Finance Committee held on 18 November 2009

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

1. PARISH COUNCIL ESTIMATES 2010/11

The Committee considered a report of the Clerk and draft estimates for the financial year 2010/11.

The provision of new services including a new web site, an internet connection at the Parish Hall and provision of planning display equipment would apply increased pressures to the budget for the coming year. As a result, the following measures were proposed to achieve possible savings and adequate working balances:

| | |
|--------------------------|--|
| <i>Splitwind Pond:</i> | Nil maintenance budget on the assumption of a Viridor grant |
| <i>Grants:</i> | Allocation of £1200 compared to £1500 in current year. Grant to Parish Hall Committee to be reduced from £500 to £300 £700 to be allocated for other regular recipients £200 to be retained for other possible applicants |
| <i>Parish Plan:</i> | Reduce provisional sum by £35 to £200 |
| <i>Maintenance Fund:</i> | No contribution again this year (Fund currently stands at £1500) |
| <i>Elections Fund:</i> | 2010/11 contribution to be reduced to £250, producing a Fund total of £1250 |
| <i>Speed limit sign:</i> | Postpone purchase of sign for Southampton Road at present in view of proposed safety proposals for Haywain junction and expected lowering of speed limit on Southampton Road |
| <i>Precept:</i> | Increase precept by £2000 to £12,200 |

With the proposed amendments, the projected year-end balance at 31 March 2011 was estimated at £4882, made up as follows:

| | | | |
|---------------|-------|-------------------|--------|
| General Fund | £1136 | | |
| Special Funds | £3746 | (Maintenance | £1500 |
| | | (Clerk's gratuity | £996 |
| | | (Elections | £1250) |

The effect of the uplift in precept would be to increase the Band D Council Tax for Copythorne residents from £8.35 to £9.87. Notwithstanding this, Copythorne's precept would remain the lowest in the New Forest.

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

RECOMMENDED:

- (1) That the precept for 2010/11 be set at £12,200
- (2) That the amended draft estimates be approved.