



Minutes of the Finance and Strategy Committee held on Wednesday 19th January 2005 at 7.30 p.m. in the Parish Meeting Room, Bramley Way, Bidford-on-Avon

PRESENT:

Cllr. Gerrard – Chairman

Cllrs. Ms. Deacon, Mrs. Keeley, Hiscocks, Langston, Sandle and Spiers

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received, and accepted, from Cllrs. Mrs. Getgood and Moore
The RFO was unable to attend due to sickness

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

These were approved, subject to an amendment of the wording, requested by the Chairman, in respect of the proposed meeting dates in April and September 2005, and to a change in the cost of parking at the Big Meadow, which had been incorrectly noted.

AGREEMENT OF BUDGET/PRECEPT FOR 2005/2006

The RFO had prepared a detailed account of the budget for 2004/2005, and the proposed budget for 2005/2006, taking into account the proposals as set out at the last finance meeting, and these, together with his comments had been circulated to all councillors for their attention.

The Chairman noted the comments made by the RFO in his summary and proposed that, in order for the Council to be able to fulfill its obligations in respect of the B50 Appraisal, and its commitment to achieving Quality status, the precept for the forthcoming year of 2005/06 should be set at £81,000 – this would represent an annual increase of £10 per Band D Household.

The Chairman then requested all councillors give their opinion which was unanimous in support of the proposal. The Village has grown considerably in the last 10 years whereas the increase in the Precept had been kept very low for a number of years and the Council felt the time was now right, following the details B50 Appraisal, to put the finances of the council on the correct level that would allow them the expenditures required, which include, amongst other things, the proposed traffic calming in Broom, the adopting of

Dugdale Avenue and improved street lighting. It was also agreed that it was important to maintain a healthy level of reserves to cover unexpected contingencies.

It was also agreed that a Parish Council Newsletter should be published regularly in the Parish Magazine, prepared and written by the Clerk

The proposed Precept of £81,000.00 will be proposed at the next Parish Council Meeting for adoption by the Council.

DATES FOR FURTHER MEETINGS OF THE FINANCE AND STRATEGY COMMITTEE

The following dates were proposed and agreed:

- 25th April 2005 at 7.30 p.m. - Approval of the account for the year 2004/05
- 21st Sept. 2005 at 7.30 p.m. – Check of the state of the finances against the the agreed budget for 2005/06
- 23rd Nov. 2005 at 7.30 p.m. - Preparation of the budget/precept for 2006/07

The meeting ended at approx. 8.15 p.m.