

Minutes of the Precept meeting of Sonning Common Parish Council held on Thursday 5 January 2012 at 19.30 hrs in the Village Hall.

Present: Mr Kedge (Chairman); Mrs Diwell; Mr Fort; Mr Greenwood; Miss Hunt; Mr Jones; Mrs Lewis; Ms Noble; Mrs Phillips-Tilbury; Mr Reynolds; Mr Stoves.
Also present Mr P Simms, Henley Standard.

Mr Kedge took the chair as the Council had been informed on 3 January that due to extreme pressure of work Mr Rooke had resigned as both Chairman and a member of the Parish Council. Prior to the start of the formal meeting Mr Kedge paid fulsome tribute to Mr Rooke as one born and bred in Sonning Common who had always remained close to his roots. He reminded everyone of Mr Rooke's many years of effective but unobtrusive work on the Parish and District Councils and in the community at large and expressed his good wishes to him for the future. These remarks were warmly endorsed. The meeting then began at 19.40.

12/135 Apologies for absence: None

12/136 Declarations of Interests by Members on Agenda Items: None.

12/137 Public Question Time under Section 30 of Standing Orders: No members of the public present

12/138 Budget and Precept for 2012/2013:

Miss Hunt, as Chairman of the Finance Committee, described the Finance Committee's detailed line by line review of the proposed budget the previous evening and that, after this very careful consideration, the Finance Committee had unanimously recommended a precept of £66,000 for the 2012/13 financial year. Mr Stoves then described the key issues facing the Parish Council noting in particular the obligation to live up to commitments made before the election last May and the additional funding demands that have since been made of the council all of which were described in the Precept Working Paper that had been circulated after the Finance Committee meeting (now available as the minutes of the Finance Committee's budget review meeting*). The meeting then considered the budget by cost centre as below:

Description	As Proposed by the Finance Committee		Precept Meeting decision	Minute
	Amount	Minute		
To agree the budget for Income other than Precept	£12,404	F12/89.1	Agreed unanimously without change.	12/138.1
To agree the budget for Cost Centre 101	£40,903	F12/89.2	Agreed unanimously without change.	12/138.2
To agree the budget for Cost Centre 201	£20,894	F12/89.3	Agreed with two abstentions without change.	12/138.3
To agree the budget for Cost Centre 301	£10,000	F12/89.4	Agreed unanimously without change	12/138.4
To agree the budget for Cost Centre 401	£19,700	F12/89.5	Proposal to move £5,000 provision for library to 901 was accepted. Agreed unanimously at £14,700.	12/138.5
To agree the budget for Cost Centre 901	£40,000	F12/89.6	Proposal that this should be approved at £45,000 was carried by a majority of 9:2.	12/138.6
To agree Guidelines for Reserves to be held	Half of the precept	F12/89.7	Agreed with two abstentions without change.	12/138.7
To agree the Precept for 2012/13	£66,000	F12/89.8	Agreed without change by a majority of 9:2.	12/138.8

It was therefore resolved that the Responsible Financial Officer, the Parish Clerk, should notify SODC of the agreed Precept and proceed to set up the budgets for 2012/2013 on the above basis.

12/139 Matters for future consideration: Mr Kedge congratulated Mrs Philips-Tilbury on the success of the village Christmas tree and proposed a vote of thanks which was warmly supported. The matter of the 2012 tree and its funding should be considered in the autumn.

The meeting closed at 20.35.

The next Meeting will be on Monday 16 January 2012 at 19.30 hrs.

Chairman: Dated:

*Minutes of the Finance Committee meeting of 4 January 2012 are available on the website or from the Parish Office.