



**6. Setting of 2015-16 Precept and budget – to receive proposals from Finance Committee**

All documents relating to the finances had been previously circulated (*Finance meeting 6/01/15 minutes and appendices*). The Chairman read out the proposals:

1. **That this Council accepts the budget for 2015-16 as laid out in the attached draft budget for 2015-16.**
2. **That this Council agrees a 1.99% rise in the household precept to a precept of £64,715, representing £35.97 per Band D household per year, an increase of 70p per annum on a Band D property.**
3. **That any underspend in the ‘Christmas Lights’ budget from 2014-15 (currently £3.650) is rolled forward and added to the proposed 2015-16 ‘Christmas Lights’ budget.**
4. **That any underspend in the ‘AEP’ budget from 2014-15 (currently around £31,000) is rolled forward and becomes the 2015-16 ‘AEP’ budget (to fund large programme development works).**
5. **That all remaining balances and underspends from 2014-15 are added to the ‘General Reserve’.**

Cllr Fitch queried the AEP budget as to what it meant: AEP stood for ‘Area Enhanced Projects’. He was assured that any proposed expenditure from the budget would go before full council. He also queried the Sea Festival expenditure; he was informed that it was a valuable contribution; the event had grown and grown and now took in the region of £1,200 income from the stallholders for their pitches.

**The five proposals were decided upon as one proposal.**

**Proposed by:** Cllr Marjorie Findlay-Stone

**Seconded by:** Cllr Nina Bliss

**Agreed by all**

7. **E-readers** – the clerk informed members that the date for the launch was deferred; KCC was still working on the installing of the software to download library e-books. It was likely that the launch date would be in March.

**8. Parish Charters**

An email about SDC’s proposal to set up a Parish Charter was previously circulated. The Shepway Area Committee wanted to hear the council's thoughts and concerns on the possibility of establishing a Shepway Parish Charter. The clerk was asked to respond that:

- (i) The details in the document were very vague; there was nothing to say how the charter would be implemented.
- (ii) It was aspirational without substance; this was likely to go the same way as Shepway Compact, which was rolled out over a year ago and then nothing more has been heard.
- (iii) It would be better if SDC produced a Service Level Agreement showing what services would be being offered and what was expected of town and parish councils, thus making actions accountable and measurable (e.g. SDC’s paperless planning process was not fit for purpose).
- (iv) As the elections would be held in May, this matter should be looked at after the elections as any new administration may have other plans.

The document was received and noted.

9. **Terms of Reference** – the Finance, Land Assets Management, Planning and Environment Committees had each reviewed their ToRs and any agreed changes had been made and the documents had been re-dated. The committees asked the council to approve the updated documents.

**Proposed by:** Cllr Michael Fitch

**Seconded:** Cllr Nina Bliss

**Agreed by all**

**10. Poetry Competition**

The clerk informed members that the Creative Writing Group hoped that the parish council would hold another poetry competition, the last one being two years ago. The group would manage it for the council: they would prepare all the terms and conditions, look at all submissions and select the winners.

**11. Land Asset Management Sub-Committee report** - the minutes of the last meeting, which had been circulated, were formally presented and noted.

**12. Finance update and payments for approval** – the clerk asked for three cheques to be signed (cheque numbers 101132 to 101134). This was approved.

**Proposed by:** Cllr M Findlay-Stone

**Seconded by:** Cllr N Bliss

**Agreed by all**

**13. Finance Committee report** - the minutes of the last meeting, which had been previously circulated, were formally presented and noted. Cllr NB said that the key issue was the setting of the budget and precept for 2015-16, which had been ratified earlier in the meeting. Cllr MF asked about the matter pertaining to the invoice sent by the previous handyman re the litter bin maintenance. Members were informed that a letter had been sent to Mr Tulett requesting the information as given in the Finance Committee minutes.

**14. Environment Committee Report and Shorncliffe Development Update**

The minutes of the last meeting, which had been previously circulated, were formally presented and noted. Cllr MFS added that a response re SDC’s query about its apparent interest in property in the vicinity of Castle Road car park was received from the Chief Executive who said that they were exploring housing opportunities in the area in line with the council’s corporate plan. There was no new information from Cllr LG re the Shorncliffe Development since his update at the Environment meeting.

**15. Planning Committee Report** – the minutes of the last meeting, which had been previously circulated, were formally presented and noted. The matter of which planning applications should be called in was discussed. It was agreed that any planning refusal decisions made by the parish’s planning committee would be forwarded to the two district councillors. They could, if they agreed, contact SDC planning officers to see what the formal decision was likely to be and then just note the decision or, if enough of a case had been made against an application, to then call it in to Development Control.

**16. Information** – there was no further information.

**17. Date of next meeting** – this would be Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2015 at 7pm. Photographs would be taken before the meeting; councillors were asked to attend half an hour earlier, at 6.30pm – and to dress smartly.

The meeting ended at 7.45pm.

Signed by the Chairman.....Date.....