

**Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee Meeting held at
Beechen Hall, Wildfell Close, Walderslade on Monday 28 January 2019
commencing at 7.00 p.m.**

Councillors present: Mr I Davies (Chairman), Mrs A Brindle Ms L Clarke, Mr V Davies, Mr P Dengate and Mr Bob Hinder, together with the Clerk Mrs P Bowdery.

1. Apologies and non-attendance

Apologies: Cllrs Hayday and Wendy Hinder

2. Declaration of Interests, Dispensations, Predetermination or Lobbying.

There were none.

As no members of the public were present the meeting was not adjourned.

3. 2019/2020 Draft Budget

The Chairman notified members that after representations from the parish council Maidstone Borough Council had revised upwards the proposed much reduced Parish Services Scheme grant. Members **agreed** that their recommendation to the parish council should reduce the previously discussed precept of £117,936 to reflect this. The Chairman then proposed, seconded by Cllr Bob Hinder, that **"This committee agrees to recommend to the Parish Council that the draft budget be accepted and that a precept of £113,335 be set."** **Unanimously agreed.**

4. Investments.

Ratified the Clerk's decision, after seeking members views, to reinvest the Lloyds A and Lloyds B monies for a further 3 months.

5. Urgent issues.

The Clerk notified members that additional fire break point units (i.e. alarm buttons) were needed at two new external doors (Acorn Room and office) and that a professional review of the fire alarm system recommended that the control unit, installed in 1994, should be replaced. The Clerk also recommended that the current bells be replaced by sirens. After discussion covering fire drills, evacuation procedures, advice to regular hirers etc. members **agreed:**

- **Release of up to £1,500 from the Contingency Budget to replace and upgrade the current system.**
- **Age Concern would be required to undertake some form of fire drills.**
- **The fire precautions handout to regular hirers would need to be acknowledged in writing as received and that the responsibilities of the leader in the event of an evacuation were clearly understood.**

The Clerk was asked to investigate whether the company undertaking the work could also install the defibrillator unit. Cllr Dengate suggested that consideration be given to running an external wire to the fire break point in the Acorn Room. **Action: Clerk.**

6. Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 12 March at Beechen Hall, Wildfell Close, Walderslade commencing at 7.30 p.m.

Meeting closed at 7.20 p.m.

Signed as a correct record of the proceedings.

Chairman.....

Date.....