



Ashington Parish Council

Finance Committee Meeting

**THE NEXT MEETING OF
ASHINGTON PARISH
COUNCIL FINANCE COMMITTEE
TO BE HELD IN:
THE PARISH OFFICE
ASHINGTON SPORTS PAVILION
AT 7.30 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY 16TH
NOVEMBER 2011**

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Public Adjournment – an opportunity for members of the public to raise any matters with the Council
3. To discuss the proposed budget and precept document presented to Councillors

The Clerk has prepared a provisional budget which can be summarised thus:

Predicted income 2012/13	£12,425
Predicted expenditure 2012/13	£103,621
Deficit	£91,196

Adjustment to ensure reserves are kept at 50% of expenditure leaves a Target Precept of £92,868 (current precept = £92,214). Therefore, a precept rise of 0% is achievable.

However, this can only be achieved if the following proposals are agreed:

- a. Play Area Capital Reserves - currently there is £23k in reserves for play area equipment replacement and the Council saves £6k pa into this fund. It is proposed that the savings are reduced to

£4,500pa AND Play area safety inspections and maintenance costs are met from the Play Area Capital reserves funds.

- b. Landscape gardener costs – the Council had previously agreed that Open Spaces maintenance costs are met from Developers Capital funds but landscape gardener costs are not. It is proposed that 50% of the landscape gardener costs are now paid out of Developers Capital as much of the work done by the gardener is regular open spaces maintenance. One-off open spaces maintenance costs are less likely in the future as the work is now on the annual landscape gardener maintenance contract.
- c. The Clerk is looking for a sponsor for the hanging baskets as this will bring significant income. It is proposed that the Clerk take steps (newsletter articles, personal contacts etc) to secure a sponsor.
- d. It is possible that the Council may need to consider some future funding for Youth Provision in the village as WSCC funding has been withdrawn.

THE PUBLIC AND PRESS ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO BE PRESENT

Karen Dare, 9th November 2011