

**Report on Horseheath Parish Council Sub-Committee Meeting held on  
Monday 28 January 2013 at 7:45 p.m. at Church Farm**

**Present:**                 **Stuart Miller (Chairman)**                 **Ninian Bickerton**  
                                  **Denise Lindsell (Vice Chairman)**         **Christine Newman**  
                                  **Richard Southwell**

**In Attendance**         **Bernard Yallop (Parish Clerk)**

**The main purpose of the meeting was to discuss Finance and agree the Precept for 2013/14.**

Before the precept could be agreed the meeting had to agree on whether or not to spend money on several capital projects and if so how much money was it prepared to spend:-

- (1) Squeezing the through roads close to entrances and exits to Horseheath and Cardinals Green to reduce speeding and improve road safety.
- (2) Provide vehicular access to the burial ground.
- (3) Restoring the King's Stone
- (4) 30 mph Speed Stickers for Wheelie Bins.
- (5) Tranche for the Archives

Projects (1) and (2) are expensive. At the time of the meeting, projects (1), (2) and (3) have questions hanging over them that unfortunately cannot be answered before the precept request has to be handed in to the district council on 4 February 2013.

The Chairman pointed out that in order to maintain cash flow it would be permissible to borrow money from the Burial Ground Access Fund but it would have to be paid back. At the end of the day all the money would have to come from the precept.

*Project (1) Road Pinching*

The parish council has applied for a minor road improvement grant of £10,000. The parish council had to agree with the county council to make a contribution of up to £1,000 towards this sum. David Lines did not know when successful applicants are likely to be chosen. The cost of the whole project was estimated to be £20,000, so even with a grant the parish council has to find another £10,000. It would also be nice if we could make some additional improvements at a further cost of £5,000. The public has been consulted about this project at the same time that it was being consulted on the Affordable Housing project. Villagers did not raise any objections to the proposal at the time. The Chairman suggested increasing the precept by £2,500 for the next four years to pay for the work. Based on this year's figures and allowing for the LCTS (localised council tax support scheme) grant of £387 for Horseheath, Band D payments would increase from £35.00 to £44.60. This represented an increase in the ranking of Horseheath Band D payments from 23rd to 39th out of a hundred parishes, where 1 pays least and 100 pays most.

*Project (2) Burial Ground Access*

The parish council has already saved £20,000 towards this project and is currently saving £1,000 per year for this project. Questions that the parish council would like answers to have been forwarded to the Chancellor of the Diocese.

*Project (3) Kings Stone*

The money required is £2,150. The Chairman came up with the affordable solution that he would obtain the bulk of the funds from public donation, whilst the church and the parish council would each pay for any shortfall up to £500 each.

*Project (4) Speed Stickers*

It was agreed to keep the cost of purchasing speed stickers down to £200.

*Project (5) Archives*

Archives require a further tranche of £250. In the past the money has been included with the general costs of administration. In future the clerk will also keep a paper account.

**Setting the Precept**

Denise Lindsell proposed the motion that the parish council and the church each pays any shortfall on £500 towards the King's Stone and that the precept is increased by £2,500 for 2013/14. The motion was seconded by Stuart Miller and agreed unanimously.

Other Matters Discussed

*The Venture*

The clerk was asked to check previous records to see if there had ever been any suggestion of the parish council funding this publication.

*Oak Tree Plaque*

The chairman showed the new plaque to the parish council.

*Poster for Parish Councillors*

The chairman showed a copy of an advertisement he had designed asking residents if they wanted to become a parish councillor.

*Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual General Meeting*

The chairman announced that the next APM and AGM would be held on Friday 26 April 2013. He asked for worthwhile suggestions that could make the evening even more interesting and eventful.

The discussion ended at around 9:30 pm.