



## Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council

### Finance & General Purposes Meeting

Meeting held on Thursday 16 January 2014 in The Lounge, Mortimer Methodist Church, West End Road, Mortimer at 2:30pm

**Present:**

Councillors: P Wingfield (Chairman), D Ives, D Morsley, M Dennett, P Blagden, J Morden.

Clerk: Mrs J Kirk

Public/Press: None

01. **To receive any apologies:** None
02. **To receive any Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:** The Clerk confirmed that all the SMPC Dispensation Forms relating to the Precept/Budget setting have been received from all councillors present and therefore Dispensations were granted.
03. **To discuss and agree a draft Precept budget for 2014/2015 in order that a recommendation can be made to the full Council on 13.02.2014:**  
A working draft spreadsheet was carefully discussed, reviewed and updated. It was agreed to recommend to the full Council Meeting on the 13 February that a precept budget requirement for the f/y 2014/2015 of £90,830.

This year's recommended Precept request is actually slightly less than the 2013/2014 total Precept figure of £92,370. Last year's figure was reduced by the receipt of the Government's mitigation grant of £6,639 which was passed on by West Berkshire Council. WBC has advised that they will not be passing on any of their Council Tax Support Funding Grant to Town and Parish Council's for the forthcoming financial year of 2014/2015. Hence while the Parish Council's expenditure will reduce slightly the Precept will have to rise by approximately 7%.

A request was made at the 9 January 2014 full Parish Council Meeting regarding SMPC continuing to pay the membership subscription to the Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC). The Chairman supplied information regarding the benefits to SMPC of being in membership of SLCC and the commitment of SMPC to pay the annual subscription. It was therefore agreed to continue to include the subscription in the 2014/2015 budget above.

Meeting Closed at 3:25 pm