

**Minutes of the Meeting of Kirby Cane & Ellingham Parish Council's finance committee
on Tuesday, 5th January 2016 at 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall, Kirby Cane.**

The Chairman asked if anyone present wished to record proceedings

Present:

Lawrence Cannard	John Cook	Richard Lees	Lesley Lodge
Julie Pickering	Deanna Saunders	Mike Wickenden	Iain Wright

Also the Clerk to the Council, Jane Love.

- 1. To receive apologies for absence:** Janice Game
- 2. To appoint a chairman of the finance committee:**
Richard Lees was elected chairman unanimously.
- 3. Declarations of interest and requests for dispensation:**
Deanna Saunders and John Cook are trustees of the Memorial Hall Committee (items 5 & 6), Iain Wright is a trustee of the Kirby Cane Charity and Lawrence Cannard is a trustee of Ellingham United Charities.
- 4. Opportunity for public participation:**
There were no members of the public present.
- 5. To consider applications for Parish Council funding for 2016/17:**
Councillors discussed an application from Ellingham Football Club and agreed to recommend allocating £350 towards completion of the rabbit fencing of the field. They also discussed an application from the Memorial Hall committee, and agreed to recommend a donation of £1000, with individual expenses being referred to the Parish Council for approval and payment to enable the VAT to be reclaimed and so maximise the grant to the Memorial Hall. Cllrs Saunders and Cook did not vote on this item. Councillors also discussed whether it might be appropriate to allocate more funds for Kirby Cane Church for churchyard maintenance.
- 6. To discuss in detail the Parish Council's budget for 2016/17:**
Councillors examined the clerk's draft budget for all aspects of the council's projected income and expenditure for the forthcoming financial year. Projected income includes a £1750 grant from Ellingham United Charities for play equipment which will be added to the £300 from Kirby Cane Charities, and councillors requested that £450 should be added from Parish Council funds to enable a new item of equipment to be acquired in the spring and paid for in the new financial year. .
The clerk undertook to re-examine the budget summary and produce a simpler version as the existing table of figures was not easy to follow, and submit this to councillors before the Parish Council meeting on 19th January.
- 7. To consider new provisions for the sector-led body for audit:**
A new company has been formed to take over the appointment of external auditors and the setting of audit fees for small authorities from 2017. This company will automatically appoint external auditors on councils' behalf in a similar way to the Audit Commission unless a council decides to opt out of these arrangements and form an independent audit panel to procure an external audit itself, with a decision required by 31 March 2016. At this time it seems unclear how much the audit will cost for councils with an income under £25,000 but it should be less than £200. Councillors agreed not to opt out of these arrangements.
- 8. To receive items for information**
There were none.

There being no further business the meeting closed.

Signed..... Dated.....
Chairman