

He also reported that following the suggestion that central government might cut £500,000 from the local government grant the District Council Administration had wanted to bring in a consultant to find ways to cut services but this idea was squashed and East Cambs Officers had come up with almost a quarter of a million pounds savings in this year, giving a substantial surplus to put into reserves. However, the Administration still plans to make up to 23 staff redundant and remaining staff will be expected to carry on with the same workload. Some management staff have been offered their jobs back at a reduced salary of approximately 20% less. In order to justify the cuts they have decided to take a total of £1,921,770 out of the income from 2016, 2017 & 2018 and put it into a new reserve in case a future Government cuts more of its council grant. This is despite the fact that the accounts for this year are in surplus and next year's budget is fully balanced without any increase in council tax and without any "savings" from redundancies.

costs

CLLR P WILSON'S REPORT HAD BEEN MISSED OUT AND WILL BE INCLUDED IN THE MINUTES FOR MARCH
FC 03/2014

10. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES, WORKING PARTIES AND GROUP REPRESENTATIVES

- A. Finance & Emergency:** The next meeting will be held on Monday 24th February.
- B. Planning:** The next meeting will be held on Thursday 20th February.
- C. Fairchild's Meadows:** The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 26th February.
- D. Green Footpaths & Trees:** Cllr Norman reported that a tree belonging to the school had been damaged in the recent winds and fallen over onto trees near the Haddenham Play Area but had been cleared away by the school the next day. Fallen trees in Hinton Hedges Lane would be cleared away by a Pond working party the following weekend.

Ivy on the fence in the Churchyard is becoming very overgrown and Cllr Fairchild advised that the fence and brick wall actually belong to the developers next door and it is therefore their responsibility to clear the ivy from both sides. Cllr Bush will speak to them about it.

The County Access Team had advised that they intend to replace the footbridge from Sand Path over the Cut because it is becoming unsafe.

- E. Road Safety:** Cllr G Wilson reported that a sign had appeared in Duck Lane advising that the Local Minor Highway traffic works will be undertaken in the near future.
- F. Street Lighting:** The Clerk advised that PCSO Annie Austin did not agree with the decision taken last month to monitor the lighting situation in Church Lane (See Minutes FC 02/2014 Item 11F) and she wished the Council to reconsider. It was agreed that the decision as taken would still stand.
- G. Arkenstall Centre:** The booking system is being sorted out and will be going live on line shortly; bookings will be available to be made up to 18 months in advance.
- H. Haddenham Youth Club:** Cllrs Parr, Page and G Wilson will meet with the new Youth Development Co-ordinator for Ely, Littleport and Witchford on 10th March to hear of the plans and projects in place for 2014.
- I. Haddenham Library:** Cllr Goddard reported that there was currently a systems failure, which is being rectified. The next Friends meeting will be held on 26th February.
- J. Recreation:** The next meeting will be held on 20th February. Cllr Parr advised that the committee had given permission for the Pavilion to be used free of charge for a British Legion event on 20th July.

10. GLADMAN DEVELOPMENTS LTD

Cllrs Bush, Tindall and G Wilson had met with two representatives from Gladman Developments Ltd during the month to discuss a proposal for 100 houses to be built on land off Wilburton Road. Issues raised with them included:

- The land is outside the village development envelope.
 - The site had not been highlighted in the Village Vision or Parish Plan as a preferred site for development.
 - Access on an already bad and very busy junction.
 - Heavy traffic using Duck Lane as a rat run in rush hour times.
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