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**Minutes of the Bluntisham Finance Committee Meeting
Monday 14th November 2016 at 8pm in The Village Hall, Mill Lane,
Bluntisham**

Present: Mrs Philippa Hope, Mrs Margaret Lumb, Mr Rob Gore, Mr Martin Crowhurst, Mrs Cynthia Curtis & Mrs Tracey Davidson (Clerk)

Also present – Mrs Joan Gutteridge

	Open Forum: Mrs Joan Gutteridge asked if item 30 on the previous minutes had been completed. The clerk advised that it had been reported to CCC.	
32	Declaration of Interest for items on the agenda – None.	
33	Apologies for absence – Mr Alan Moules, Mr Mark Berg.	
34	Minutes of the Finance meeting dated 5th September 2016 to be approved and signed – Minutes approved and signed by Mrs Margaret Lumb. (<i>Proposed Mr Rob Gore Seconded Mr Martin Crowhurst . All agreed</i>)	
35	Bank reconciliation to be reviewed and signed – the bank reconciliation for September was signed by Mrs Philippa Hope and Mr Rob Gore signed October. No queries were raised.	
36	2016/17 review budget – Mrs Philippa Hope went through the parish and village hall accounts in detail: Parish – on track Village Hall – water still overbudget, ad-hoc hall hire still under budget but it was noted that this was a new budget forecast which set an increase of £5000 on income from the previous year. It was recommended that the HMC look at other companies to quote to service and maintain the boilers to ensure the current company is competitive. Mrs Margaret Lumb suggested this be discussed by the full council but confirms the finance committee recommends that an annual maintenance contract for the boilers is obtained for 2017/18 to ensure the budget can be set.	
37	Agree voluntary contribution towards Christmas Tree – it was agreed that a one off contribution of £50 towards the community Christmas Tree be given. (<i>Proposed Mrs Philippa Hope, seconded Mr Martin Crowhurst. All agreed.</i>)	
38	Agree Christmas Spending – Mr Rob Gore asked if community lights could be purchased to brighten up the village at Christmas. Suggestions for lights include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christmas Tree (more lights needed as larger tree) • Phone box • Bus Shelter • Trees along Rectory Road near war memorial It was agreed that battery operated lights set to come on for 6 hours a day be purchased with a total cost of £200. Mr Rob Gore is to liaise with Feoffees and purchase the lights. (<i>Proposed Mrs Philippa Hope, seconded Mrs Cynthia Curtis. All agreed.</i>)	
39	Agree budget 2017/18 – Mrs Philippa Hope went through the prepared budget, which was shared prior to the meeting and suggested no precept increase was needed. Some lines have increased but salaries increased purely the budget allocated based on contracted hours. It was agreed that the village hall should have an annual deep clean	

	and this should be included as part of the village hall maintenance. (<i>Proposed Mrs Philippa Hope, seconded Mr Rob Gore. All agreed.</i>)	
40	Suggest precept for 2017/18 – it was discussed and agreed that the precept remains the same at £92,827.00. (<i>Proposed Mr Rob Gore, seconded Mr Martin Crowhurst. All agreed.</i>)	
41	<p>Any other matters for consideration – Mrs Margaret Lumb asked if the parish council could register the hedge along Meeting Walk with the land registry. The clerk is to contact English Heritage for more advice.</p> <p>Post meeting note: the clerk confirmed that hedgerows can't be protected and further clarification is being sought from National England as well as clarification of the land ownership.</p> <p>Mr Rob Gore advised that Cllr Steve Criswell had emailed about new funding opportunities for a community scheme similar to timebanking. The clerk asked Mr Martin Crowhurst if he had completed the online information for Lloyds bank as per her email. The clerk is to resend the email.</p>	
42	Date of next meeting – Monday 16 th January 2017 8pm Mrs Cynthia Curtis gave her apologies in advance	

Meeting closed 21.25pm