

**WELLOW PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Wellow Village Hall – 27 January 2003**  
**(7.00 p.m. – 8.00 p.m.)**

PRESENT: Mrs Perry (Chairman); Mr Austin, Mr Bloore, Mr Moody, Mr Noble,  
 Mrs Simpson and Mr Thaxter

Apologies for absence were received from Mr Gentle, Mr Harris, Mrs Kittow  
 and Mr Overton-Hore

199. **2003/04 BUDGET**

Members considered a report of the Clerk concerning the 2003/04 estimates.

As already advised, the Summary page of the draft estimates considered previously by the Policy & Finance Committee had understated next year's proposed expenditure by some £14,908. With the adjustment of £350 agreed at the last Council meeting, next year's expenditure now totalled £82,955. However, a problem had now also arisen with the Council computer which was likely to involve the purchase of new equipment. One quotation had been received but it was agreed that Mrs Simpson would obtain a further price for consideration at the Council meeting on 3 February. The Clerk also proposed a possible "joint purchase" arrangement allowing Council and personal use of the computer.

In view of the increased expenditure burden, the Chairman of the Council had met with the Chairman of the Policy & Finance Committee and the Clerk to discuss possible savings. As a result, a supplementary report showed possible expenditure reductions of £7765 (£7165 net after allowing £600 for a computer). Members proposed a further saving of £250 by deleting the 'Garden for the Elderly' scheme entirely from the budget for 2003/04. This was on the understanding that the project would be reinstated the following year. The full list of reductions proposed (less any new computer funding) was therefore as follows:

	<u>Reductions (Savings)</u>
Chairman's allowance	125
Grants to local organisations	810
Lower Common Road Recreation Ground:	
Pavilion maintenance	300
Play area	1500
Byelaws	380
Hatches Farm Sports Field:	
Pavilion maintenance	150
General maintenance	150
Byelaws	380
Environmental Schemes:	
Tree planting	50
Footpaths	50
Foxes Lane pond	100
Licensed sites	200
Notice boards	400
Garden for the elderly	500
Bus shelters	<u>2000</u>
	c/f 7095

	b/f	7095
Common – general maintenance		250
Burial Ground:		
Landscaping/tree planting		250
Church graveyard maintenance		220
Contract waste bins		200
		<hr/>
		£8015

In the absence of any savings, a precept £64,000 would be needed in order to achieve the intended year-end balances. With the net savings of over £7000 now identified, the same balances could be achieved with a precept of £57,000.

**RESOLVED –**

- (1) That the principle of a new computer be agreed and that a provisional sum of £600 be approved for this purpose;
- (2) That a decision on the computer to be purchased, and the funding arrangements, be made at the Council meeting on 3 February;
- (3) That savings totalling £8015, as detailed above, be applied to the 2003/04 estimates; and
- (4) That the amount of precept for 2003/04 be agreed as £57,000 and that the resolution in minute 195/1/03 be amended accordingly.