

Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)

Decision notice

Date: 8 July 2024

Public Authority: Hughenden Parish Council

Address: Council Offices the Common
Great Kingshill
High Wycombe
HP15 6EN

Request:

The complainant requested the following information from Hughenden Parish Council on 5 January 2024 in regards to their proposed budget:

It is also essential to know how many sites will the £162.5k cover? Which ones? Where are the costed proposals? Where is the consultation with residents on spending such a large sum of taxpayers money - much of it on land many residents have never heard of, much less have walked?

It is essential that Council has this information before it approves the precept. It is also essential that Council is provided with reports on its current responsibilities. Could Council have a progress report on the allotments and burial grounds. What has been done over the past months? What has gone well? And what are the problems?

I would be grateful for a copy of one of the site management plans – that for Cockshoot Woods which I understand was to be produced by the end of last year. I have to say that as a ward councillor for Widmer End, I am surprised and disappointed that I was not consulted about this plan and have not seen a draft.

I would also like to know if [REDACTED] has been commissioned to do any work except the production of site management plans for Little Burnham Meadow, Vincents Meadow and Cockshoot Wood. If he has, I would like to know who commissioned it and on what authority.

I would be grateful for copies of the last inspection reports of these playgrounds please.

I find it difficult to consider many of the other items, particularly staff costs as I do not have the necessary relevant information. I do not even know how many staff HPC employs nor what is proposed for the future. Are there any recommendations from the HR Committee which met on 12 December? Council needs to consider these before it approves the precept.

I would also be grateful for the following information:-

- a) a list of Council employees with the date of their appointment by Council (with the exclusion of [REDACTED]).
- b) a copy of their job descriptions please.
- c) for each employee, their terms and conditions of employment with the date when these terms and conditions were approved by Council.
- d) If [REDACTED] is employed by the Council as the Responsible Officer, could you inform me of any qualifications she has which are covered by Section 113 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988.
- e) a list of people currently contracted by Council to provide administrative/clerking services for the Council with the date of Council's agreement to the provision of these services.
- f) a copy of the terms and conditions for these people contracted by the Council and the date on which Council agreed these terms and conditions.

Commissioner's Decision:

A public authority will breach section 10 of FOIA if it fails to respond to a request within 20 working days. Based on evidence available to the Commissioner, by the date of this notice the public authority has not issued a substantive response to this request. Therefore the Commissioner finds a breach of section 10.

Steps:

The public authority must provide a substantive response to the request in accordance with its obligations under FOIA.

The public authority must take this step within 30 calendar days of the date of this decision notice. Failure to comply may result in the

Commissioner making written certification of this fact to the High Court pursuant to section 54 of FOIA and may be dealt with as a contempt of court.

Right of Appeal:

Either party has the right to appeal against this decision notice to the First-tier Tribunal (Information Rights). Information about the appeals process may be obtained from:

First-tier Tribunal (Information Rights)
GRC & GRP Tribunals,
PO Box 9300,
LEICESTER,
LE1 8DJ

Tel: 0203 936 8963

Fax: 0870 739 5836

Email: grc@justice.gov.uk

Website: www.justice.gov.uk/tribunals/general-regulatory-chamber

Any Notice of Appeal should be served on the Tribunal within 28 (calendar) days of the date on which this decision notice is sent.

**Information Commissioner
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF**