

Minutes of the meeting of Belbroughton Parish Council Finance Committee held on 23rd January 2012 in Fairfield School

Present: Councillors J Kitson, J Bradley, K Green, T Jones, S MacDonald, C Scurrrell and P Shotton. Clerk : Katie Limm.

027/12 Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors Hine and Roberts.

028/12 Declarations of interest

Cllr MacDonald declared a personal interest as a resident of Nash lane in the discussion about street lighting for Forge Lane.

029/12 Minutes of the meeting on 12th December 2011

The Minutes of the previous meeting were approved and were signed by Cllr Kitson.

030/12 Bank reconciliations

The reconciliation of the Council's two HSBC accounts was noted by the Committee.

031/12 Accounts for payment

Payments for January set out in a schedule circulated by the Clerk were approved. The Committee noted that the invoice from the County Council for street lighting was the standard charge of £5,000 and was not based on actual costs. The County had promised that the 2012/13 invoices would be based on actual costs incurred by the parish council. The Committee agreed that for the following year only one parish magazine should be purchased.

032/12 Income and expenditure

Reports on income and expenditure were circulated for information. The Committee agreed that it would be sufficient to have these reports on a quarterly basis provided that the Clerk drew the Committee's attention to any significant issues arising.

033/12 Investments

The Committee agreed the investment of £25,000 in the Natwest enhanced fixed rate deposit account paying 3% interest. This would be for 12 months until February 2013.

034/12 Grass cutting

Quotes had been received for the Council's grass cutting contracts for 2012 onwards. Two contractors had quoted for contract 1 (the larger areas) and 6 for contract 2 (the smaller areas). The Committee agreed to offer both contracts to Keith Basketfield who has undertaken the cutting of the larger areas for several years.

035/12 Fairfield Village Hall

A letter had been received from the village hall committee seeking financial support from the Parish Council for improvements and maintenance work. The Committee asked the Clerk to seek further information from the village hall committee about capital and revenue income and spending over the past three years, users of the hall and the charges they pay, the impact on costs and income of the proposed improvements, and how much the hall committee expects to find towards the improvements from its own resources or other sources of funding. It was agreed that when this information had been received members of the village hall committee should be invited to a meeting to discuss their funding application.

036/12 Street lighting for Forge Lane

The Committee noted that there was no lighting in Forge Lane except that provided by lighting at the pub on the corner and that this was a well used route by pedestrians. It was

agreed that the lighting working group should be asked to consider the provision of a light in this area, including the potential location and costs, but that in principle the Council should be prepared to cover the costs of the energy if the developer of the Nash Works site agreed to provide a street light on this lane.

037/12 S106 money

The Clerk said that about £50,000 of S106 money had been negotiated for the Hartle Lane housing development for play facilities. This funding went into a district wide pot and was not earmarked for the village, but the District Council had confirmed that the Parish Council or a parish organisation could make a bid to use some of these funds. The Committee agreed to recommend to the Council that it should support a bid from the Belbroughton Recreation Centre Committee for some of these funds.

In relation to the Nash works development, it was agreed that the Council should ask the District if S 106 funds could be negotiated for recreational facilities. Funding for a street light in Forge Lane should also be pursued. The Committee noted that arrangements were changing under the localism legislation and this should increase the scope for local use of money levied from developers.

038/12 Planting in Hartle Lane

Cllr Bradley circulated some draft planting plans produced by Belbroughton Horticultural Society. These needed to be firmed up and a preferred plan produced which could be sent to the County Council for approval. The Committee agreed spending of up to £250 on this project.

039/12 Maintenance items

- i. The tree inspection report was considered and the action recommended agreed in principle. The Clerk was asked to obtain another quote for the work.

- ii. The inspection of Little Bell Hall pool had been completed. No problems were identified except the known problem of the sluice gate which could not be raised. The raising of the gate was primarily for maintenance purposes and there were no immediate concerns. However the first step recommended was to retrieve the nut which had come away from the winding shaft and was at the bottom of the sluice. A local diver had volunteered to try to retrieve the nut. The Committee approved this action provided that a risk assessment was done and all necessary safety precautions were taken.

- iii. The relation of one of the dog bins from Belbroughton Rec. to the path behind the Glebe was agreed.

040/12 Village tidier

Cllr Scurrall was nominated to take part in the discussions with the tidier about his contract for 2012/13.

The meeting closed at 9.45 pm.

SignedChairman