

**Minutes of the meeting of Belbroughton Parish Council Finance Committee  
held on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2014 in the Jubilee Room Belbroughton Recreation Centre.**

**Present:** Councillors J Bradley, C Scurrall, I Dalziel, K Green, A Mabbett, R Morgan, D Roberts, and P Shotton. In attendance: John Farrell (Clerk).

**387/14 Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllrs. T Jones and S Pawley.

**388/14** The Committee agreed to defer agenda item 11 'Council Finances' until the November meeting since Cllr. Pawley was unable to attend this evening.

**389/14 Declarations of interest.** No interests were declared.

**390/14 Dispensations.** None were requested.

**391/14 Minutes of previous meeting**

The Minutes of the meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> September 2014 were approved.

**392/14 Bank reconciliation:**

The bank reconciliation for the Council's operational bank account was noted. Cllr. Bradley signing the bank statements and initialling the 'Quickbooks' reconciliation prints.

**393/14 Accounts for Payment**

The clerk circulated the list of items for payment in October and detailed the transactions involved. The Committee noted the grant payments issued to Belbroughton Church Hall and minor grant payments to Fairfield Welcome Club and Belbroughton Football Club. The payments were authorised and Cllrs. Scurrall and Shotton would sign the cheques.

**394/14 Annual Insurance / Risk Assessments**

The Committee noted the renewal of the annual insurance through brokers Came & Co – the policy being issued by Hiscox. The Council has committed to a three year deal. A working group of Cllrs. Mabbett, Pawley and Roberts will review the Council's risk management procedures and assessments.

**395/14 Parish Lighting**

The clerk informed the Committee that the maintenance and energy charges from the County Council for 2013/14 were due to be invoiced shortly. This amount of £1,755.60 was well below the budget of £5,000 because the County was utilising funds that the Parish Council had built up with it from prior years required payments. The County Council policy has changed and it is now to clear all parish councils' 'credits' and effectively invoice in arrears. The County Council anticipate a charge of £4,866.18 for 2014/15.

The Parish Council awaits the quote from the County Council for the replacement of a light known as 'Point 9' at Church Road Belbroughton. The clerk was asked to chase this and also to update members with the Council's prior approved commitments to upgrade lights in the parish. An enquiry will be made of the County Council as to the costs and consequent energy savings of replacing current light bulbs with L.E.D. versions.

#### **396/14 Budget Working Group**

The Committee agreed to the forming of a 'Working Group' of Cllrs. Mabbett, Morgan , Roberts and Scurrall to produce the budget for 2015/16 for consideration of the Finance Committee at the meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> November.

#### **397/14 Christmas Trees**

The Committee agreed the purchase of Christmas trees in Fairfield and Wildmoor at the same costs as in 2013 and the payment of the electricity charges for the Christmas lights on the tree on The Green, Belbroughton.

#### **398/14 Council Finances**

This item was deferred until the November Committee meeting.

#### **399/14 Maintenance Work**

Cllr. Roberts advised that a resident had complained at the amount of parking on the pavement outside the 'Ducks Crossing' property Belbroughton. The clerk was asked to clarify from the police what actions if any they would take. Cllr. Morgan advised that there were also parking issues outside The Bell public house. Cllr. Scurrall advised that there were also issues along Stourbridge Road Fairfield.

Cllr. Mabbett advised that school children were having to walk on a grassed area adjacent to Stourbridge Rd which he felt was dangerous when it was wet and that a proper footway would be ideal. The area was outside the Parish Council boundary and the clerk was asked to raise the concerns with Catshill Parish Council.

Cllrs. Dalziel and Roberts would review the operations carried out by the gardener in Belbroughton to clarify the works that were required by the Council.

The clerk was asked to periodically request that Cllrs. assess specific works carried out by the Lengthsman.

Cllr. Green requested that E'on be reminded to remove cuttings from the tree works they had undertaken at the Fairfield Recreation Ground.

The meeting closed at 9.55 pm.

Signed.....Chairman