

## **Minutes of the meeting of the Belbroughton Parish Council Finance Committee held in the Meeting Room Belbroughton on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2010**

**Present:** Cllrs J Bradley, T Jones, J Kitson, P Peacock, P Shotton and C Scurrall.  
In attendance: Mrs C Limm, Clerk. A member of the public also attended.

### **289/10 Apologies**

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs Green and Hadley. In Cllr Green's absence Cllr Kitson chaired the meeting.

### **290/10 Declarations of Interest**

No interests were declared.

### **291/10 Minutes of the Meetings**

The Minutes of the meeting on 23 August were agreed and the Minute book signed by the Chairman.

### **292/10 Bank reconciliations**

The bank reconciliation for the Council's two accounts were noted by the Committee and signed by the Chairman.

### **293/10 Budget Update**

An update of income and spending against the budget for the first six months of the year had been circulated to the Committee. The Clerk said that overall, and with no unforeseen calls on the budget, the Council's spending on 'Ordinary' items could be a little under the budget figure of just over £60,000, although spending under 'Contingency' might be under pressure. The Committee endorse the Clerk's suggestion that spending on new fencing at Fairfield Recreation Ground should be handled as a contingency item. Ordinary income was on target to yield £58,000. It was agreed that parish lighting should be considered separately at the next Finance meeting.

'Other' spending was more difficult to predict since much depended on decisions which had not yet been made about parish projects and how quickly these could be implemented. 'Other' income was in line with expectations.

The Committee agreed that on the basis of the figures to date there was no need to suggest any adjustments to the Council's spending plans for 2010/1.

The balance sheet was also noted.

### **294/10 Accounts for Payment**

Accounts for payment set out in a schedule tabled by the Clerk were approved.

### **295/10 Parish Council Investments**

The Clerk reported that the Investec investments had been made on 7<sup>th</sup> September with the FTSE index standing at 5,407.82.

The outstanding issue was to identify a suitable investment for the remaining £50,000 of the Council's capital. This was currently in the Scottish Widows savings account. The Clerk said that HSBC were offering a three year product along the lines of the Investec products- with a return of 18% offered if the FTSE was the same or higher at the end of the term. The Committee agreed to keep the options under review.

### **296/10 Parish Projects**

The Clerk circulated a note of parish projects under consideration - not all of which were likely to come to fruition in the current financial year. Spending on installation of new gates on one of the footpaths in Fairfield costing just over £600 had been agreed.

The Committee agreed the quote for construction of a new bus shelter in Hartle Lane. The County Council would be providing a quote for installation of the hardstanding - the likely cost was between £1,500 and £2,000.

Cllr Bradley said that a revised proposal had been made by the landowners for the location of a new permissive footpath along Hartle Lane. Their agent had asked the Council to support a two stage process involving first the agreement of a new permissive path and second the extinguishment of the existing footpath running past Mr Beckett's farm and the designation of the permissive path as the public footpath. This would be an issue for the full Council to consider. The costs for the Parish Council were difficult to estimate at this stage- creation of the permissive path was likely to involve only a new gate and some new signs. There could be some legal costs in setting up the agreement. It was not clear whether the second stage would involve any financial costs for the Council.

In relation to the purchase of a mobile Vehicle Activated Sign, the Clerk had sent the agreed list of possible locations to Cllrs Blagg and Moore for them to ask the County Council whether the sites would be acceptable. Cllr Blagg had asked about consultation with nearby residents. This would therefore need to be considered again by the full Council at the October Council meeting.

### **297/10 Grants**

A letter had been received from Belbroughton Cricket Club asking if the Council would consider giving a grant towards restoration of a new roller. Although the usual closing date for applications was the end of May, since the capital grants budget had not been fully allocated the Committee agreed to consider the application. The Clerk was asked to write to the Club to ask them to complete the usual application form and also to enquire if they had applied to other grant giving bodies for funds.

### **298/10 Fairfield Recreation Ground**

The Clerk had sent photographs of the damaged play equipment (rabbit springy) to Wicksteed. It was agreed to await their reply before deciding how to proceed.

The valuer who was advising on the rent to be set under Fairfield Villa's new lease had undertaken to set out detailed proposals within the next few days. The Clerk said that it would be helpful to have one or two nominated Councillors who could be consulted on the

details so that negotiations could proceed quickly. Any points of substance would be brought to the Council for consideration. It was agreed that the Clerk should consult Cllrs Green and Jones about the details.

The Committee noted that under the terms of the current lease FVFC's rent would increase by 4.7% from the end of September.

**299/10 Maintenance and improvements**

- Cllr Bradley said that a meeting had been held with the Council's tree surgeon and adjoining neighbour about tree work at Sylvesters Corner. The neighbour was pressing for more drastic work than the Council had envisaged and this would need to be considered at the next full Council meeting. In the meantime he asked Belbroughton Councillors to visit the site so that they were aware of the trees there and the potential problems. The Clerk would also seek advice from the District's tree officer.
- Work suggests by the footpath wardens on the bridleway between Belbroughton cricket ground and Breach House was approved in principle subject to the Clerk getting a satisfactory quote.
- The poor surface along Forge Lane where it joins Nash Lane, Belbroughton was mentioned. The Clerk would raise with County Highways.

The meeting closed at 9.05 pm.

Signed.....Chairman