

Minutes of the meeting of Belbroughton Parish Council Finance Committee held on 16th July 2012 in Fairfield School

Present: Councillors J Kitson, J Bradley, K Green, S MacDonald, D Roberts, and P Shotton

In attendance : Katie Limm (Clerk).

213/12 Apologies : Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs Hine, Jones, and Scurrall.

214/12 Declarations of interest: No Cllr Bradley declared an interest in item 217/12 below. No other interests were declared.

215/12 Minutes of the meeting on 25th June 2012

The Minutes of the previous meeting were approved subject to clarification that Cllr Kitson's suggestion about the funding of parish projects envisaged that identification of suitable projects would be the first consideration. The Minutes were signed by the Chairman.

216/12 Tree planting

The Committee considered the proposals by Bromsgrove District Council's tree officer for tree planting in the Parish. These included the planting of 4 trees on Parish Council land (2 on Church Green in Belbroughton and 2 at Fairfield Recreation Ground) and further planting on land at Belbroughton School and Holy Trinity Church.

The Committee approved the proposals provided

- it was clearly understood that the Parish Council would be responsible only for the trees planted on its own land; the other bodies involved would be responsible for trees on their land
- a maintenance contract would be put in place, paid for from the funds available from Springfields, until the trees were well established

217/12 Grant for Jubilee celebration in Belbroughton

Cllr Bradley declared an interest in this item since he was a member of the Belbroughton Jubilee Committee but judged it appropriate to remain for the discussion.

The Jubilee Committee had applied for a grant before the full details of its income and expenditure for the event were known, but had given an undertaking to refund any surplus funds to the grant givers (of which the Council was one). The daytime event had made a loss of £150 which had been covered by the evening event. The remainder of the surplus from the evening event had been used to give grants to various parish organisations.

The Council was concerned that it had not been consulted about the use of the surplus funds in the light of the undertaking to return these to the grant giving bodies. However, the Council recognised that that the surplus funds were being distributed between various village causes. There may also have been some confusion about whether the evening party was part of the event that the Council was supporting. In the circumstances the

Council did not wish to seek to overturn the arrangements made by the Jubilee Committee, but asked the Clerk to write to the Committee to express the Council's disappointment with the way this had been handled.

218/12 Bank reconciliations

The bank reconciliations for the Council's two accounts were noted.

219/12 Splitting the Council

The Committee agreed an overtime payment to the Clerk for work to date on the above.

220/12 Accounts for Payment

Payments for July set out in a list tabled by the Clerk were approved.

221/12 Maintenance work

The Committee identified the following maintenance items:

- Drains in Gorse Green Lane and Newtown Lane need to be checked and cleared by the lengthsman
- The VA sign in Hartle Lane and the halt sign at the Fiveways crossing need to be cleared of foliage
- Grass at the corner of Woodhouse Orchard needs to be cut – for County Highways or the adjacent landowner.

The meeting closed at 8.55 pm.

Signed.....Chairman