

Minutes of the meeting of Belbroughton Parish Council Finance Committee held on 20th August 2012 in Belbroughton Recreation Centre

Present: Councillors J Kitson, J Bradley, K Green, C Hine, T Jones, S MacDonald, D Roberts, and C Scurrall.

In attendance : Katie Limm (Clerk).

233/12 Apologies : Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Shotton.

234/12 Declarations of interest: Cllrs Kitson, Bradley, MacDonald, and Roberts declared an Other Disclosable Interest in item 238/12 since they had undertaken to fund the additional cost of a new strimmer if the Council did not agree to do so.

236/12 Minutes of the meeting on 16th July 2012

The Minutes were approved.

237/12 Bank reconciliations

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

238/12 Purchase of strimmer

Cllrs Bradley, Kitson, MacDonald, and Roberts left the meeting whilst this item was discussed.

The Committee agreed to pay for the additional cost (£158.62) of a new strimmer for the footpath wardens.

239/12 Accounts for Payment

With the exception of renewal of the annual subscription to the Open Spaces Society, payments for August set out in a list tabled by the Clerk were approved by the Committee. The Committee agreed that members should look at the Society's website to see what services it offered and that this subscription would be considered at the September Finance meeting.

The Committee noted the payment of the fee for the Council's external audit and that an unqualified audit opinion had been given to the Council's accounts.

240/12 Investment in Santander bond

The Committee agreed that £25,000 should be reinvested in a new one year Santander bond paying 3.2% interest when the current bond matured on 1st September. The Clerk and Chairman of the Council were authorised to fill out the necessary form. The remainder of the investment (£25,000 plus interest) should be transferred to the Scottish Widows Account.

241/12 Street Lighting

Cllr Kitson said that estimates had now been received from the County Council for the costs of the replacement lights that had been approved in principle by the Council. These costs were higher than previous estimates and seemed to be standard figures rather than a reflection of the actual work involved. It was agreed that this needed to be explored further

with the County lighting engineer and that a working group meeting should be arranged to take this forward.

The Clerk reported that the status of the street light on Belbroughton village green was unclear. The Parish Council had a separate contract with Npower for power supply to the box on the green which appeared to power the light and sockets in the box (used for the Belbroughton Christmas tree lights). The annual contract with Npower was now due for renewal. However, this street light was also listed on the lighting contract with the County Council. The Clerk was asked to explore this further and to defer a commitment to renew the Npower contract if possible.

242/12 Relocation of electricity apparatus at Sylvesters Corner

The Council had been asked by Western Power Distribution to agree to the relocation of an electricity supply pole and a new underground cable on the Council's land at Sylvesters Corner. The Committee had no objections provided that there was no cost to the Council and that any damage was rectified.

243/12 Maintenance work

Cllr Roberts asked for the Committee's agreement to the purchase of weedkiller and a sprayer for use at Sylvesters Corner. This was approved. Cllr Roberts agreed to undertake and note a risk assessment with the Council's gardener.

The Committee agreed Cllr Green's request that a spring be fitted on the gate at Fairfield Recreation Ground.

244/12 Other Finance business

The Committee noted a letter from Belbroughton United Charities about the Council's decision not to offer a grant for the strimming of the Jubilee Orchard. This would be an item for the next agenda.

The meeting closed at 9.00 pm.

Signed.....Chairman