

Minutes of the meeting of Belbroughton Parish Council Finance Committee held on 19th August 2013 in Belbroughton Recreation Centre

Present: Councillors J Kitson, C Hine, S MacDonald, D Roberts and C Scurrall.
In attendance : Katie Limm (Clerk) and John Farrell (Clerk designate).

242/13 Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted Cllrs Bradley, Mabbett and Shotton. *(A message conveying apologies from Cllr Green was delivered late and was received after the meeting.)*

243/13 Declarations of interest

No interests were declared.

244/13 Minutes of previous meeting

The Minutes of the meeting on 15th July were approved.

245/13 Bank reconciliations

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

246/13 Accounts for Payment

Payments for August were approved by the Committee. The increased costs charged by the District Council for printing the annual report were noted. The Clerk was asked to explore other options for printing future newsletters and reports.

247/13 Natwest and Santander Bonds

Two £25,000 bonds (a Natwest bond maturing in July and a Santander bond maturing at end of August) were available for reinvestment. The Committee reviewed current investments and the Council's commitments over the next few months. The tenders for repairing the collapsed wall ranged from £23,000 to £38,000. These costs included traffic management but there would be some additional costs, for example the surveyor's fee. The Council would need a reasonable level of liquidity until the final costs were known.

The Committee therefore agreed to recommend that £25,000 should be invested in a 100 day notice account available with Shawbrook Bank paying 2% interest and that the remaining funds should be placed in the Scottish Widows account for the time being.

248/13 Income from meeting room letting

The Committee agreed to recommend to the Council that income from letting the meeting room should be used in the first instance to cover the costs of the letting (legal and estate agents' fees) and that once these costs were covered the income should be classified as other income and used to fund grants and projects.

249/13 Maintenance work

- Grass cutting was discussed- some areas had been allowed to get very long before being cut. Locations cut were detailed on invoices but this did not provide timely information for monitoring purposes. The Clerk was asked to contact Keith Basketfield to request an email notifying the Clerk about areas cut at the end of any week in which he had completed work in the parish. This could then be sent to Councillors to check.

- The refilling of existing bins and potential purchase of additional bins was raised. This should be an item on the next Council agenda. Cllr Scurrrell undertook to investigate a possible supplier.
- Cllr Hine asked if the Council could discuss litter picking/village tidying at a future meeting. It was agreed that this should be considered in the autumn to inform the budget setting process.
- Cllr Roberts mentioned an approach from residents about the poor repair of the Woodgate Way garages. These were managed by Bromsgrove District Housing Trust so residents should be advised to contact them or Cllr Boswell about this.

250/13 Other finance business

- i. The Clerk reported that the external auditor had asked for information about the level of the Council's reserves and the intended use of these funds
- ii. The criteria for including items on the Council's asset register was raised. It was agreed that the register should be reviewed in due course and that the monetary value of items to be included should be considered.
- iii. The Council's new laptop computer would be passed on to John Farrell at the end of the month. It was agreed that the old laptop should also be given to John who would then consider its possible future use or disposal and consult the Council accordingly.

The meeting closed at 8.55 pm.

Signed.....Chairman