

Minutes of the meeting of Belbroughton Parish Council Finance Committee held on 18th November 2013 in the Jubilee Room Belbroughton Recreation Centre.

Present: Councillors J Bradley, K Green, S Macdonald, D Roberts, C Scurrrell, P Shotton.
In attendance :John Farrell (Clerk).

343/13 Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs. C Hine, J Kitson, & A Mabbett.

344/13 The Committee noted the resignation of Cllr Kitson as Chairman. Cllr Bradley was the sole nomination for the Chair and was appointed.

345/13 Declarations of interest

None.

346/13 Minutes of previous meeting

The Minutes of the meeting on 21st October were approved.

347/13 Bank reconciliations

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

348/13 Accounts for payment

Payments for November were approved by the Committee. The clerk advised that these included the grants to Belbroughton Church Hall £1500 and, Belbroughton Cricket Club £1500. The grant to the cricket club including a sum of £1000 which had been carried over from the previous year.

349/13 Queens Road Wall

The clerk informed the committee that within two months the invoices for the repairs and the surveyor managing the works would need to be paid which would result in a reduction in the cash position of between £25k and £30k plus VAT. While the VAT would be reclaimed, the effect will be to reduce the liquidity held significantly. Currently the Council holds sufficient accessible funds to make the payments.

The Committee had noted that the contractor had changed the supplier of the coping stones, with the Conservation Officer's agreement, but requested that the clerk contact the surveyor to enquire as to whether this had cost benefits for the contractor and if so seek to have this benefit passed on to the Council.

The Committee also noted that a power cable had become exposed and requested that the clerk seek clarification from the surveyor of his actions over this issue and of possible cost implications.

The Chairman advised that the Committee would not discuss making a recommendation on how the wall repairs or surveyors costs were to be covered deferring this to the full Council.

350/13 Tennis Club Grant

The Committee noted the letter from the club, circulated before the meeting, wishing to vary the purpose of the grant (a tennis ball machine) agreed earlier this year as it had obtained the necessary funds from Sport England. The Club now wished instead to invest in 'Juniors' equipment. The Committee, subject to clarity on the specific equipment to be purchased would be happy to consider this. The clerk was requested to congratulate the club on its success with Sport England and obtain the detailed equipment schedule.

351/13 Meeting Room Belbroughton

The clerk informed the Committee that the tenant had been late in paying the October rent. Following enquiry this had now been paid with the tenant apologising, citing both her own and her banker's errors. However November's rent is now also overdue along with the insurance premium. While the clerk has chased this the Committee requested that he write specifically informing her of the date upon which the rental payments are to be received.

352/13 Council Budget 2014/15

The Clerk had circulated the budget and notes from the Budget Setting Group which had met 29th October. He advised that the budget projected a surplus of £1,503 from 'Ordinary' activities and a surplus of £2,869 from the 'Other' activities.

The Committee noted the overall projected surplus of £4,372, which included Parish Project Expenditure which had already been approved for payment across the current year and following year at a total of £11,685. (£4,000 in 2013/14 and £7,685 in 2014/15).

The Committee noted the budget without amendment, but did not wish to make a Precept recommendation to Council since the decision on how the costs incurred in repairing the wall at Queens Hill Belbroughton were to be discussed by the full Council and that decision would drive the Precept requirement.

The Chairman and clerk would produce a paper outlining the options for covering the wall payments for the full Council to consider. They would include the full costs, known to date, rather than the set £25,000 cost proffered by the Budget Setting Group.

353/13 Fairfield Villa F.C.

The clerk had circulated a letter from the football club which had also been seen at the prior full Council meeting. He also informed the Committee that despite his request the club had not yet forwarded the requested copies of annual accounts.

The Committee recommended that Council should not agree any variations to the terms of the lease.

354/13 Maintenance Work

No new works were identified.

355/13 Any other Finance Business

Cllr Roberts advised the Committee of a new grant/loan application from Belbroughton Cricket Club, whose letter was circulated. He requested that the Committee request that this item is placed on the full Council agenda. The clerk was requested advise the club that grant decisions had already been made for this financial year but to obtain further information covering : flexibility in the timing need of the grant/loan, the amount of the club's own contribution, copies of the last three years accounts and the club's contingency plans. Also, to seek clarification of the name of their main grant funder.

Cllr.Green suggested that a future Committee meeting should discuss setting up a contingency fund for maintenance of Parish assets.

The meeting closed at 9.40 pm.

Signed.....Chairman