

Minutes of the meeting of Belbroughton Parish Council Finance Committee held on 26th May 2015 in the Barton Room Fairfield Village Hall.

Present: Committee members: Councillors J Bradley , T Jones, A Mabbett, P Margetts, Dr R Morgan, S Pawley, D Roberts, C Scurrall. Cllrs. S Hood and S Nock also attended.

In attendance: John Farrell (Clerk).

192/15 Cllr. Bradley was elected Chairman and Cllr. Scurrall Vice Chairman

193/15 Apologies - Apologies were received from Cllr. G Parsons.

194/15 Declarations of interest. No interests were declared.

195/15 Dispensations. None were requested.

196/15 Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting on 20th April 2015 were approved, and the Chairman signed the minute book.

197/15 Bank reconciliation

The bank reconciliation for the Council's operational bank account was noted. Cllr. Bradley signed the bank statements and the 'Quickbooks' reconciliation prints. In accordance with the Council Financial Regulations – rotating this role – Cllr. Margetts would carry out the reconciliation processes next month.

198/15 Accounts for Payment

The clerk circulated the list of items for payment in May totalling £5,063 and detailed the transactions involved. It was noted that following the receipt of invoices for the works undertaken the Capital Grant payment of £1,150 was made to Belbroughton Recreation Centre. This was from last years approved grants, Council had previously agreed to extend the drawdown period. The payments were authorised by the Committee and Cllrs. Mabbett and Scurrall signed the cheques.

Action: The clerk was asked to investigate if there would be any saving in paying for the internet connection on an annual basis rather than quarterly.

199/15 Grants

A working group of Cllrs. Morgan, Pawley, Mabbett and Scurrall was set up to assess the grant applications. It would aim to present its recommendations to the July Finance Committee meeting.

Cllrs. Bradley and Scurrall urged cllrs. to raise awareness with parish bodies and residents of the grants and the application process.

200/15 Parish Gardeners and Lengthsman

Cllr. Pawley and Cllr. Jones would act as future points of contact for James Callaghan and Bernard Edwards respectively and with support from the clerk will monitor activities.

Action: The clerk would circulate to Cllrs. the Lengthsman schedule of activities permitted under the scheme.

201/15 Maintenance items.

Cllr. Margetts requested that the road surface at Dark Lane was repaired. It having seen greater traffic usage as a result of the recent Severn Trent works in the centre of the village.

Action: The clerk would contact the Worcs Hub requesting a survey and repair works after the completion of the Severn Trent works.

Cllr. Roberts suggested that most of the benches in Belbroughton were in need of repairs and/or re-staining/varnishing.

Action: James Callaghan would be asked if he would attend initially to the benches on Sylvester's Corner when they are removed for the resurfacing works planned there for early June.

Cllr. Scurrrell requested that the lawn mowing contractor make a special cut at the bank at the junction of Yew Tree Lane and Stourbridge Rd in middle June and again at the end of July.

Action: Clerk to contact the contractor.

Cllr. Scurrrell requested that Cllrs. held copies of the standard letter that could be issued to residents whose hedges / trees were requiring trimming.

Action: The clerk to circulate the standard letter.

Cllr. Scurrrell reminded the Committee that the quarterly Calc meeting was due to be held 10th June and any questions for that meeting should be sent to himself or Cllr. Roberts who will also be attending.

Cllr. Hood requested that the County cut the grass areas around the 'Fiveways' junction in Bell Heath as traffic exiting the roads were having visibility issues.

Action: Clerk to contact the Hub.

201/15 Other Financial Business

Village Tidy up - Cllr. Roberts confirmed that after a meeting with Ringway Plc 22nd May they had suggested the following actions in Belbroughton on Saturday 6th June:

1. Removal of chains and wooden posts from footway boundary at Hartle Lane / High St junction.
2. Painting of the railings at the above site between the footway and the road - working down the High St. to the entrance to The Green.
3. Re-staining of the bus shelter opposite the Talbot Pub.
4. Replacing the two small seats in the bus shelter with a bench type arrangement across its width.
5. Removal of rusty posts alongside entrance to the Talbot carpark - one being subject to WCC confirmation that there is no electric feed.
6. Sylvester's Corner:

Lifting out of two benches which will be restrained by our parish gardener.

Remove the black BDC litter bin and green 'dog bin' and re locate securely on the parish council land adjacent to the footway by the main road.

Resurface the small pathway, leaving the tree stumps insitu.

7. Dark Lane - create a tarmac pathway to link the current pathway to the bench.

8. Repair a large pot hole on the church hall car-park.

9. Reinstate wooden bollards on land opposite the school.

All items excepting No.7 were agreed as worthwhile and welcomed improvements.

Action: Cllr. Roberts would assess with the clerk if it was realistic, in view of the short timescale and uncertainties with B.D.C. support to set up a volunteer sessions to assist with other activities while Ringway Plc were on site.

The meeting closed at 9.25 pm.

Signed.....Chairman