

Minutes of the meeting of Belbroughton Parish Council Finance Committee held on 20th July 2015 in the Jubilee Room Belbroughton Recreation Centre.

Present: Councillors J Bradley (Chair), A Hood, A Mabbett, P Margetts, J McFarling, Dr R Morgan, D Roberts, and C Scurrell In attendance: John Farrell (Clerk). 0 members of the public.

262/15 Apologies - Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr. G Parsons.

263/15 Declarations of interest. No interests were declared.

264/15 Dispensations. None were requested.

265/15 Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting on 15th June 2015 were approved, and the Chairman signed the minute book.

266/15 Bank reconciliation

The bank reconciliation for the Council's operational bank account was noted. Cllr. McFarling signed the bank statements and the 'Quickbooks' reconciliation prints. In accordance with the Council Financial Regulations – rotating this role – Cllr. Dr. R Morgan would carry out the reconciliation processes at the next meeting.

267/15 Accounts for Payment

The clerk circulated the list of items for payment in July totalling £4,986 and detailed the transactions involved. The payments were authorised by the Committee and Cllrs. Mabbett and Scurrell signed the cheques.

The Committee agreed that the payments due in August would be prepared by the clerk and then authorised by 2 of 3 Cllrs. from Cllrs. Bradley, Roberts and Scurrell, as there was no Finance Committee meeting during August.

268/15 Grants for 2015.

The Committee accepted the recommendations of the working group, which had met to consider applications. It agreed the payment of the budgeted Maintenance Grants:
Belbroughton P.C.C. £2,080 - Belbroughton Church Hall £695 - Fairfield Village Hall £695 - Belbroughton Recreation Centre £1,155.

It further recommended to the full Council the payment of Capital* and Minor Grants** :

*Belbroughton Recreation Centre £1,161 towards the costs of fencing requirements. - Belbroughton Church Hall £1,598 towards the costs of improvements to disability access.

The clerk confirmed that the supporting financial information received from the entities was acceptable and that the capital grants represented 50% of the costs of the two projects.

** Fairfield Social Group £250 - WRVS More the Merrier Club £250 – Fairfield Welcome Club £250.

The Committee recommends that the balance of £2,241 available from the Capital Grants budget of £5,000 is vired to the Parish Council's Parish Projects budget. The residual balance of £250 in the minor grants budget would be available for any future applications received during the remainder of the financial year.

69.

The Committee recommended a payment of £275 to the Bromsgrove Citizens Advice Bureau to support its activities. These funds to be paid out under the sec 137. Regulations and to be from Precepted income.

269/15 Lighting Column –Stourbridge Rd Fairfield

The Committee agreed to the replacement of the lighting point 35 which the County Council had advised had a corroded column. The cost of £1,048 would be vired from the 'Elections' budgeted cost of £1,800 since as there had not been contested elections in either of the wards in May 2015 those costs would not be incurred.

Action: the clerk to request W.C.C. replace the lighting column.

270/15 Defibrillator – Belbroughton

Cllr. Roberts detailed the expected joint arrangement with the Belbroughton Scarecrow Committee who had funds allocated for the purchase of a defibrillator and cabinet. Siting of the cabinet on an external wall had been agreed with the Talbot P.H. Subject to the confirmation of an agreement with the Scarecrow Committee whereby the Parish council would take on the ownership and maintenance of the defibrillator, and the agreement from the District Council Conservation officer to the positioning of the unit the Committee agreed to cover future maintenance and initial installation costs, from the 'Maintenance budget'.

Action: Cllr. Roberts to confirm the arrangement with the Scarecrow Committee and research the monitoring of the unit and training requirements for its use. The clerk to obtain the Conservation officer's opinion on the siting of the cabinet.

271/15 Savings and Investments

The Committee agreed to the investment of the maturing Julian Hodge Bank funds of £20,000 into an investment with Secure Trust Bank for a two year fixed term at 2.33% gross. This investment may become oversubscribed and the Committee agreed that if necessary an alternative investment entity may be used and can be agreed by the Chairman of the Finance Committee Cllr. J Bradley and Cllr. D Roberts. Such investment would be a cash investment under the terms of the Council's policy for such investments.

The Committee noted that the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS) from July 2015 encompasses this parish council's investments with institutions that are part of the government scheme (Compensation of £85,000 per institution reducing to £75,000 from January 2016). The Council has a limit of £50,000 for investments with any one institution.

Action: the clerk to process the application with Secure Trust Bank

272/15 Financial Regulations

The Committee recommended the renewal of the existing Financial Regulations.

273/15 Maintenance Work

Cllr. Roberts requested that the Council's representative with the Belbroughton United Charities discuss with the charity the condition of some allotments which were overgrown.

Action: the clerk to request Cllr. J Boswell investigates.

Cllr. Roberts advised that there was overgrown vegetation in Holy Cross Lane which obstructed a streetlight. **Action:** He and the clerk would ascertain the owner of the property and send a letter requesting remedial action is taken.

Cllr. Margetts requested that details of the ownership of woodland adjacent to Holy Cross Lane is obtained as there was further overgrown areas that should be addressed.

Action: clerk to investigate.

Cllr. Hood advised that there were overgrown trees to the rear of property on Quantry Lane Bell Heath.

Action: the clerk would ask the District Tree officer to speak with Cllr. Hood.

Cllr. Morgan advised of overgrown vegetation on the A491 north from the junction with Hartle Lane. The clerk advised that this was an ongoing issue also involving Galtons Lane where the County Council were in contact with the landowners via their agents.

274/15 There was no other Finance Business and the meeting was closed at 9.15 p.m.

Signed.....Chairman