

Minutes of the meeting of Belbroughton Parish Council Finance Committee held on 16th November 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 Scurrall. In attendance: John Farrell (Clerk).

397/15 Apologies - Apologies were received from Cllr. G Parsons.

398/15 Declarations of interest: None.

399/15 Dispensations. None requested.

400/15 Bank reconciliation

The Committee agreed to bring this item forward since Cllr. McFarling required to leave the meeting early for family reasons. The bank reconciliation for the Council's operational bank account was noted. Cllr. McFarling signed the bank statements and the 'Quickbooks' reconciliation prints. The Committee agreed that Cllr. McFarling would also carry out the reconciliation processes for the December Finance Committee meeting.

The Committee agreed to research the use of electronic payments in substitution for cheque payments since some suppliers were no longer accepting cheques. The clerk and Committee Chairman were requested to assess options and report back to the Committee.

Cllr. McFarling left the meeting.

401/15 Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting on 19th October 2015 were approved but with the addition of recording the names of the two Independent Financial Advisers referred to in minute 351/15. These were " Mr Mark Pritchard of Unity Financial Planning Ltd and Mr Ian Lloyd of Origin Financial Ltd - both companies Authorised and Regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority ", the Chairman signed the minute book.

402/15 Accounts for Payment

The clerk circulated the list of items for payment in November totalling £5,441 and detailed the transactions involved. The payments were authorised by the Committee and Cllrs. Roberts and Scurrall signed the cheques.

403/15 Parish Room Belbroughton

The Committee noted that 50% of the November rent had now been paid by the tenant. She had committed to pay the balance in the coming week. The Committee agreed to take no further action at this point but would review the position again at the next full council on 7th December.

The Committee agreed that it should commence its processes for the renewal of the lease of the Parish Room during February 2016.

404/15 Council Budget 2016-17

The clerk circulated to the members the proposed budget for the year ending 31st March 2017 along with the budget commentary from the 'Budget Working Group'. The Committee noted the information including the expected surplus in the current financial year and recommended to the full Council that the budget be adopted with a consequent Precept reduction of £5,000 to £60,000 for 2016-17.

405/15 Maintenance work

Cllr. Roberts advised that during the site visit at The Green, Belbroughton to assess the installation of the new lights on the fir tree the electrician present had expressed concerns at the existing cabling set up to power the lights which has apparently been in place for about 15 years. Power cables are trailing for 15 metres at approximately 2 metres height and then linked precariously via an adjacent property's guttering to a mains box on the Green. Thus it was highly recommended by the electrician that cabling to any lights is routed underground to better ensure public safety. The Committee agreed that the present set up should be ceased and arrangements made to rectify the matter.

Action: the clerk to commission the maintenance works.

406/15 Any Other Finance issues

Cllr. Bradley advised that the postmaster at the High St, Belbroughton Post Office had received no contact from the Post Office regarding the consultation on the future of its operation at its present site before he received the letter announcing the review. He further advised the Post Office had responded that the review had been requested by R S McColls.

The Meeting closed at 9.10 p.m.

Signed.....Chairman