

Minutes of the meeting of Belbroughton Parish Council Finance Committee held on 14th December 2015 in the Barton Room Fairfield Village Hall.

Present: Councillors J Bradley (Chair), A Hood, A Mabbett, P Margetts, Dr R Morgan, G Parsons, D Roberts, and C Scurrall. **In attendance:** John Farrell (Clerk). No members of the public.

436/15 Apologies - Apologies were received from Cllr. J McFarling who had been delayed at work.

437/15 Declarations of interest: None.

438/15 Dispensations. None requested.

439/15 Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting on 16th November 2015 were approved, the Chairman signed the minute book.

440/15 Bank reconciliation

Cllr. McFarling was not able to be present but had advised the clerk earlier in the day that he was content with the reconciliation information he had been provided with prior to the meeting. The bank reconciliation for the Council's operational bank account was therefore noted and Cllr. Bradley the Chairman of the Committee signed the bank statements and the 'Quickbooks' reconciliation prints. The Committee agreed that Cllr. Morgan would carry out the next monthly reconciliation processes for the January Finance Committee meeting.

441/15 Accounts for Payment

The clerk circulated the list of items for payment in December totalling £3,121 and detailed the transactions involved. The payments were authorised by the Committee and Cllrs. Mabbett and Scurrall signed the cheques.

The Committee asked the clerk to write to Warwick Bullock of WB Groundworks Ltd expressing thanks for the maintenance work carried out on The Green Belbroughton.

442/15 Parish Room Belbroughton

The Committee noted that rent remained overdue and that the rent deposit account had still not been brought up to its required level. The Committee agreed that it would write formally to the tenant requesting a schedule of when she would attend to the arrears and also to remind her that there was no automatic right of renewal when the lease expired next year.

Action: the clerk to write as requested.

443/15 Parish Lengthsman

The Committee agreed that a four week handover period would be desirable when the new individual is appointed and noted that these extra salary costs, circa £240 would be required to be taken from the budget contingency line.

444/15 Parish Investments – Independent Advice.

The Committee agreed that illustrations of investment products for consideration are sought from three independent financial advisors. Advisors to be contacted – Prosser Knowles, Kidderminster; Oakleys, Droitwich; and Origin Financial, Bromsgrove. The illustrations are to be requested on a no obligation basis and at no cost, for investing a sum of £100,000. The full council would consider at a future meeting whether to invest in any particular product(s) as seen in the illustrations provided or to place funds into fixed interest rate term deposits **Action:** The clerk to obtain the illustrations and, available bank / building society term deposits covering periods of up to 5 years.

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445/15 Parish Projects

Cllr. Mabbett advised that the Fairfield projects were ‘work in progress’. Cllr. Bradley advised that the proposed footpath diversion in Belbroughton had received a positive comment from the Countryside Service and so was also progressing. Cllr. Roberts advised that the new Christmas lights in Belbroughton were now in place and he had received a number of compliments from residents on the improvement. Members noted that the Parish Projects ‘Working Group’ would meet again in March 2016 when any new ideas for projects would be considered along with a review on those evolving from September this year.

446/15 Any Other Finance issues

Cllr. Mabbett felt that the council should assist with provision of sites for I.T. courses and pressed for progress on involvement with known providers.

Cllr. Morgan advised that he would bring to full council information on prospective joint ventures to assist residents with managing their personal health wellbeing.

The Meeting closed at 9.00 p.m.

Signed.....Chairman