

Minutes of the meeting of the Belbroughton Parish Council Finance Committee held in the Meeting Room Belbroughton on Monday 18th October 2010

Present: Cllrs K Green, J Bradley, T Jones, J Kitson, P Peacock, and C Scurrall.

In attendance: Mrs C Limm, Clerk. A member of the public also attended.

326/10 Apologies

No apologies were received.

327/10 Declarations of Interest

No interests were declared.

328/10 Minutes of the Meetings

The Minutes of the meeting on 20 September were agreed and the Minute book signed by the Chairman.

329/10 Bank reconciliations

The bank reconciliation for the Council's two accounts were noted by the Committee and signed by the Chairman.

330/10 Income and Expenditure

The Clerk circulated a note of income and expenditure against budget. There were no major changes since the budget review at the last Finance meeting.

331/10 Accounts for Payment

A list of payments for October was circulated and approved by the Committee.

332/10 Parish Council's budget for 2011/12

The Committee agreed to set up a working group to make recommendations to the Committee on the 2011/12 budget. The group would report back to the November Finance meeting. The Clerk suggested that the group should also consider the structure of the budget and budget headings since the current budget was not consistent with how the accounts were organised in the Council's accounting software. This was agreed.

333/10 Parish Council Investments

The Committee discussed investment of the last quarter (£50,000) of the Council's capital. At present fixed rate bonds as favoured by the Council for this investment were not offering attractive rates of return. The Chairman asked whether the Council should consider more radical options for investing this money. The pros and cons of waiting to see what happened to interest rates in the New Year were discussed as well as whether it might be unwise to tie up money for too long given the uncertainty about future interest rates and inflation. It was agreed that the Clerk should contact the financial adviser again to ask if he had any further suggestions. The Clerk would also investigate the rates currently available on one or two year bonds. The item would be discussed again at the next Finance meeting.

334/10 Street lights

The Clerk circulated a note about the Council's spending on street lights. The Committee noted that provision had been made for the maintenance work done last year and that the final bill was likely to be lower than anticipated. Provision of £4,800 for replacement of 4 lamps had been made in the current year's budget for work this financial year in line with the improvement programme agreed by the Council. The Committee therefore agreed that the

Clerk should request replacement of four lamps as proposed and in addition the replacement of the defective lamp which the condition survey identified as in need of replacement this year.

335/10 Grants

The Committee agreed to recommend to the Council that Belbroughton Cricket Club should be offered £1,200 towards refurbishment of its grass roller.

336/10 Fairfield Recreation Ground

The Chairman said that the idea of a sinking fund for work at Fairfield Recreation Ground had been largely prompted by the potential cost of resurfacing the car park. The Clerk had obtained an estimate from Worcestershire County Council's contractor who suggested that the total cost would be no more than £4,000. Some remedial work this year to patch the car park and replace the tarmac round the edge would cost about £2,000. The car park surface should then be good for another 8 to ten years. The Committee considered that this maintenance work was desirable and agreed to consider in December or January, when likely year-end spending would be clearer, whether it could be done this financial year. If the work was not done this year it should be included in the budget for next. In relation to a sinking fund generally, Fairfield Councillors were asked to think about the annual provision needed for Fairfield Rec. and to bring this back to the Finance Committee for consideration.

In relation to replacement of rabbit springy it was agreed that Wicksteed should be asked to repair the rabbit. The Clerk was asked to investigate whether it would be advantageous to make an insurance claim for the work.

Fairfield Councillors suggested the purchase of a multi-goal for the Recreation Ground at a cost of around £5,000 as a parish project over two years (10/11 and 11/12). Residents had identified facilities for older children as a desirable development in response to the consultation about the future of the Rec. It was agreed to put this forward as a recommendation for the full Council to consider alongside other potential Parish projects.

The Committee also discussed advice received from the valuer on various issues relating to the new lease with Fairfield Villa Football Club, including the setting of the rent. The public was excluded from this discussion because of the confidential nature of the business.

337/10 Maintenance and Improvements

Purchase of additional plants for the raised beds and removal of the goal posts at Fairfield Rec. were approved.

Cllr Bradley reported that Cllr Deeley was working on plans for planting at the Hartle Lane entrance to Belbroughton.

It was agreed that in general Done Mowing did not need to do another cut of the small areas of grass. Belbroughton War Memorial could be done for Remembrance Sunday if necessary.

The meeting closed at 9.30 pm.

Signed.....Chairman