

Minutes of the meeting of Belbroughton and Fairfield Parish Council Finance Committee held on 16th May 2016 in the Jubilee Room Belbroughton Recreation Centre

Present: Councillors: A Hood, A Mabbett, P Margetts, R Morgan, S Nock, D Roberts and, C Scurrall.
In attendance: John Farrell (Clerk). 0 members of the public.

161/16 Cllr. Bradley was elected Chairman, Cllr. Mabbett was elected Vice-Chairman. In the absence of Cllr. Bradley Cllr. Mabbett chaired the meeting.

162/16 Apologies - Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs. Bradley and Parsons.

163/16 Declarations of interest: None. **164/16 Dispensations.** None requested.

165/16 The Committee agreed to consider agenda item No.9.

Queen's 90th Birthday celebrations.

Cllr. Pawley advised the Committee of the event being organised by the Belbroughton Scarecrow Committee on 11th June. This was expected to have a classic car parade, live music, games and a free hog roast. The Committee approved a donation of £150.00 to assist with running the event. The Scarecrow Committee would require to advise the Council of the income received and expenditure incurred by the event.

166/16 Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting on 18th April 2016 were approved. The Vice-Chairman signed the minute book.

167/16 Bank reconciliation

The bank reconciliation for the Council's operational bank account was agreed by the Vice Chairman who signed the bank statements and the 'Quickbooks' reconciliation prints. The Committee agreed that Cllr. Nock would carry out the next monthly reconciliation processes at the June Finance Committee meeting.

168/16 Accounts for Payment

The clerk circulated the list of items for payment in May totalling £5,089 and detailed the transactions involved. The payments were authorised by the Committee and Cllrs. Mabbett and Scurrall signed the cheques.

169/16 Hartle Lane, Belbroughton

The Committee approved a sum of up to £60 to pay for suitable weedkiller to assist with the tidying of parts of the adjacent areas to Hartle Lane Belbroughton.

Action: Cllr. Margetts would arrange the purchase and use of the product at his own risk.

170/16 Parish Room Belbroughton

The Committee noted that although one recent payment of £250 had been received from the tenant the rental payments remained significantly in arrears. The recovery processes, already approved by Council, under the terms of the lease would continue to be progressed.

Action: the clerk would provide future updates to the Council and Finance Committee.

171/16 Grants

The Committee agreed that the 'Working Group' to assess the 2016 capital and minor grant applications would be made up of Cllrs. Bradley, Mabbett, Morgan and Scurrall.

172/16 Investments

The Committee noted that the State Bank of India were not now able to open the £50,000 3 year fixed deposit account despite earlier assurances. The Committee noted that the Council’s Bank of Cyprus UK Ltd £26,089 18 month bond would mature in June and approved increasing that investment to £70,000 and re-investing the amount with that bank for a 3 year period on a fixed rate. The current rate available was 2.15%. The Committee noted that this bank remained part of the Financial Services Compensation Scheme and thus the Council’s capital sum was protected under the government scheme.

The Committee further noted that the Nationwide Building Society Building Society £20,000 one year bond would mature this month and approved seeking re-investment of this sum plus £5000 into a 2 year fixed rate investment. The June Finance Committee would consider the options available.

173/16 Maintenance Work

Cllr. Hood requested that a future Committee consider ‘planters and plants’ for the entrance points in Bell Heath.

Cllr. Mabbett requested that the Committee ascertain the timetable of County Council maintenance programmes for footways in Fairfield.

He further sought an update from the County Council on provision of dropped kerbs in Fairfield.

Action: the clerk would contact WCC. Highways Dept.

174/16 Other Finance Business

Parish Room, Belbroughton - Cllr. Roberts advised he had upcoming holiday commitments that may curtail his attendance at meetings of the ‘Working Group’. Cllr. Nock agreed to join the ‘Working Group’ assessing the applications for the new tenancy and the Committee recommended that the Group would now comprise 5 Cllrs. – Boswell, Margetts, Nock, Pawley and Roberts.

The Meeting closed at 9.00 p.m.

Signed.....Chairman