

**Minutes of the meeting of Belbroughton and Fairfield Parish Council Finance Committee held on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2017 at The Jubilee Room Belbroughton Recreation Centre.**

Present: Councillors: A Mabbett Chairman, J Bradley, A Hood, R Morgan, S Nock, G Parsons, and, C Scurrall. In attendance, the clerk & Cllr. G Ingram. 0 members of the public.

**080/17 Apologies** - Apologies had been received and were accepted from Cllr. P Margetts.

**081/17 Declarations of interest:** None.

**082/17 Dispensations.** None requested.

**083/17 Minutes of previous meeting**

The minutes of the meeting of 20<sup>th</sup> February 2017 were approved by the Committee and were signed by the Chairman.

**084/17 Bank reconciliation**

The bank reconciliation for the Council's operational bank account was agreed by Cllr. Morgan, he duly signed the bank statements and the 'Quickbooks' reconciliation prints. The Committee agreed that Cllr. Nock would carry out the next reconciliation procedure at the March Finance Committee.

**085/17 Accounts for Payment**

The clerk circulated the list of items for payment in February totalling £11,190.48 These included the annual bill for street lighting energy usage and maintenance of £5,192 and the capital grant of £1000 to the Belbroughton Cricket Club. The payments were authorised by the Committee and Cllrs. Morgan and Bradley agreed to sign the cheques.

**086/17 Little Bell Hall Pool**

Cllr. Hood advised that following the installation of the trash screen the required follow up works to install a suitable access point for its periodic clearance had been completed and a contractor sourced to design manufacture and, supply the structures. The Committee agreed the purchase of an open mesh platform, forged welded bar grating plus edging bar and long ladder for £985.00. The Committee also agreed a sum of up to £350.00 for the installation costs of the structures.

**087/17 Investments**

The Committee noted the maturing on 29<sup>th</sup> April 2017 of the Shawbrook Bank Ltd one year fixed rate bond for £40,000. The Committee agreed the reinvestment of the capital sum for a further one year term at the currently offered rate fixed at 1.25%.

**088/17 Communication**

Cllr. Morgan advised that the Neighbourhood Planning Working Group requested that a 'Facebook' page is set up as part of the communication process for the issue of the Parish Survey. The operation of the page would be managed by the Working Group and used solely for that purpose until the full council had considered the wider use of a 'Facebook' page. An outside professional would be used to ensure that the page was set up correctly.

The Committee recommended the setting up of the 'Facebook' page and the implementation costs of up to £85.00 which would be taken from the already budgeted costs for the Neighbourhood Planning Working Group's activities.

**089/17 Maintenance Work.**

Cllr Mabbett advised that he had met with WCC Highways Richard Clewer and discussed the dropped kerbs requests for Fairfield :-

Mr Clewer was confident that the installations on Yew Tree Lane and Mount Road could be agreed. He also felt positive about the Fairfield Village Hall siting. He needed to take advice on a staggered crossing point close to the mini roundabout. He could not commit to precise funding dates should the requests be agreed.

**Action:** Cllr. Mabbett and the clerk would chase progress in May.

Cllr. Mabbett advised that quotations had been received for a new notice board in Fairfield which would replace the existing unit and would be located adjacent to the Village Hall. The Committee agreed to consider whether the Parish logo should be included in the design, this would incur additional costs although the overall costs would remain within the budget.

The Committee rejected a motion to not to have the logo used by 5 votes and 2 votes in favour. The Committee agreed by 5 votes in favour to 2 votes against to use the logo in the design and incur the additional costs of circa £170.

**Action:** Cllr. Mabbett and the clerk to process the order and installation.

Cllr. Mabbett advised that the WCC Highways would be supportive of a request for 'gated' entrances to Fairfield on the Stourbridge Road. The anticipated cost was £3,000 and funds for the full amount would not be available from the County Council however if local stakeholders were able to raise a proportion of the funds required then the County may contribute.

**Action:** the matter and funding options to be considered by full Council.

Cllr. Mabbett advised that the bus shelter on Stourbridge Road Fairfield adjacent to the church was now felt by the County Council to be in need of urgent repairs.

**Action:** Cllr Hood would seek a quotation for repair works.

**The Meeting closed at 8.45 p.m.**

Signed.....Chairman