

Minutes of the meeting of Belbroughton and Fairfield Parish Council Finance Committee held on 17th February 2020 at The Fairfield First School.

Present: Councillors: A Hood, G Ingram, A Mabbett, Dr R Morgan and, S Nock.
In attendance, the clerk.

0 members of the public.

54/20 Apologies. Apologies had been received and were accepted from Cllr. A Homer.

55/20 Declarations of interest. None. **56/20 Dispensations.** None requested.

57/20 Minutes of previous meeting.

The minutes of the meeting of 20th January 2020 were approved by the Committee and then signed by the Chairman.

58/20 Bank reconciliation.

The Committee noted the monthly reconciliation carried out by Cllr. Hood and he duly signed the bank statements and the 'Quickbooks' reconciliation prints for Council records.

The Committee agreed that Cllr. Mabbett would carry out the next reconciliation procedure at the March Finance Committee.

59/20 Accounts for Payment.

The clerk circulated the list of items for payment totalling £19,063.75. The Committee authorised the payments, noting that it covered two years claims from the County Council for the lighting energy and maintenance costs of £10,570.69. The Committee authorised Cllrs. Mabbett and Nock to confirm the transfer between bank accounts, the electronic payments schedule, and to sign the cheques.

60/20 Investments

The Committee agreed to re-invest the Hampshire Trust Bank £50,000 maturing one year fixed rate investment for a further one year period with the same institution at a fixed rate of 1.61%.

61/20 Fairfield Recreation Ground

The Committee deferred authorising any immediate gardening works on the site pending an investigation involving 'professionals' assessing the options for improving the drainage.

This could involve Severn Trent officers, and the Committee noted that Severn Trent also had a 'Community Fund' to assist with flood prevention schemes.

It also would wish to involve local residents in assessing any major changes to the site.

Action: Cllrs. and the clerk to seek advisors, including the North Worcestershire Water Management representatives, to provide robust solutions to the drainage issues.

62/20 The Green, Belbroughton

The Committee noted that the conifer on The Green which ‘housed’ the Christmas lights has died and will need to be removed. Due to the previous growth of the tree following the attaching of the lights in 2015 it would not now be possible to retrieve these.

Committee recommended that the tree and lights are removed.

Action: the clerk to obtain quotes for its removal including the lights and for a replacement tree. And, to arrange the formal request for this action from the District Council since the site was in the Conservation area.

63/20 Little Bell Hall Pool

The Committee noted the one quote that had been received.

It agreed to accept the offer from ‘D J Symonds’ to provide a report on the current state of the dam and to offer options on the methodology of refilling the pool along with any costed engineering works that would be required.

When the report is received and assessed by the Working Group the full Council can consider further actions.

Action: the clerk to instruct the surveyor.

64/20 Grants

The Committee agreed that the current policy for the Capital and Minor grants would be renewed for 2020. The applications would need to be with the Council by 31st May.

The June Finance Committee would consider the applications, for recommendation to full Council.

65/20 Maintenance Work

Cllr. Ingram felt that the Fairfield Recreation Ground should have its perimeter fence adjacent to the school lane repaired. Also, there were a number of low branches requiring removal. The Spinney required its pathways cleared of brambles and fallen dead wood.

Action: Clerk and Nigel Williamson to assess hours work required and advise the Committee.

Cllr. Mabbett advised that two sections footway on left hand side of Stourbridge Rd. prior to the layby appear to have ‘sunk’ and could not be used by pedestrians.

Action: The clerk to report to the W.C.C. Hub for investigation and action.

66/20 Any other Finance Business

None.

The meeting closed at 8.47 pm.

Signed.....Chairman