

Minutes of the meeting of Belbroughton and Fairfield Parish Council Finance Committee held on 17th June 2019 at The Jubilee Room Belbroughton Recreation Centre

Present: Councillors: A Homer, A Mabbett, S Nock and, S Pawley.
In attendance, the clerk. 0 members of the public.

192/19 Apologies. – Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr. A Hood.

193/19 Declarations of interest. None. **194/19 Dispensations.** None requested.

195/19 Minutes of previous meeting.

The minutes of the meeting of 20th May 2019 were approved by the Committee and then signed by the Chairman.

196/19 Bank reconciliation.

The Committee noted the monthly reconciliation carried out by Cllr. Nock who 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 July Finance Committee.

197/19 Accounts for Payment.

The clerk circulated the list of items for payment totalling £14,148.33

The Committee authorised the payments. The Committee authorised Cllrs. Mabbett and Pawley to confirm the transfer between bank accounts and the electronic payments. The Committee authorised Cllrs. Mabbett and Morgan, Chairman of the Council, to sign cheques. It agreed to Cllr. Morgan taking this action, pending finalising of the fresh bank mandate, as he remained a signatory to the bank account although not a member of the Committee.

198/19 Street Light point 13 in Hartle Lane Belbroughton

The Committee noted that Western Power were to take down their wooden pole, which held the parish council's bracketed light and W.P. overhead over cables since a new underground supply was now being installed to local homes. As lighting at this location was felt vital to local residents the Committee agreed to a spend of up to £3,000 for a new steel column and light to be installed by way of replacement. The work would be carried out through the County Council's contractors Prysmian while Western Power would deal with the supply connection for free. The work is scheduled for August.

The funds would be taken from the existing provision for lighting works.

199/19 Investments

The Committee noted the maturing on 28th June of the £70,000 three year fixed 2.05% p.a. investment with Bank of Cyprus and approved reinvestment of capital and interest with the Charity Bank who were currently offering a three year fixed rate of 2.1% p.a. for the funds. The Charity Bank savings are covered by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme.

Action: the clerk to arrange the investment.

200/19 Little Bell Hall Pool

The Committee noted that as previously approved the second phase of partial clearing of overgrown trees and vegetation from in, over and around the Belne Brook was taking place this week.

It agreed to request a contractor to now 'strim' the vegetation which had grown up where phase one of the clearance had taken place in earlier this year. An estimate of 4 hours was anticipated for this work and Mr Williamson would be requested to do this within 4 weeks.

201/19 Grant Applications 2019

The Committee agreed that the public if present would be excluded from this item due to the confidential and commercially sensitive nature of the matters being discussed.

The Committee recommended to the full council:

Capital Grant of £2,000 to the Belbroughton Cricket Club to assist with the purchase of a specialist roller for the pitch.

Capital Grant of £2,000 to the Fairfield Village Hall to assist with the purchase of projection, sound and lighting systems.

Minor Grant of £250 to the Fairfield Community Association for assisting with planting spring bulbs and bedding plants in the village.

Minor Grant of £200 to the Fairfield Bingo Group for assisting with the purchase of a new bingo machine and buffet requirements for 2 evening sessions.

Minor Grant of £89 to the Wildmoor Residents Association to assist with purchasing 30mph signage for distribution to residents.

202/19 Maintenance Work

Cllr. Pawley requested that the footway between the school and church was strimmed by the Lengthsman.

Action: The clerk would request the work and chase up the other additional works recently allocated to him.

Cllr.Pawley advised that the footpath from the cricket club to Breech House had become very overgrown due to the very wet weather.

Action: the clerk would refer to the footpath warden.

203/19 Other Financial Business

The Committee members agreed to complete the new bank mandate and thus also agree to the electronic and other checks to be undertaken by the H.S.B.C.bank.

Action: the clerk was requested to submit the mandate and deal with any enquiries from the bank

The Committee noted that the Farm Business Tenancy rents would need to be reviewed shortly by the Agricultural Holdings Committee and advised to the tenants by 30th September 2019 to be effective from 30th September 2020.

The Committee noted the potential 'Parish Project' expenditures for this financial year, which were to be considered in detail by the full Council in due course:

Fairfield Rec. Ground Car Park extension circa £12,000.

'Smartwater' for Belbroughton circa £5,000.

Hard standing area for Speedwatch vehicle in Fairfield circa £3,000.

The meeting closed at 9.20 pm.

Signed.....Chairman.