

# Bassingbourn-cum-Kneesworth Parish Council

## Minutes of Finance Committee Meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> November 2019

Present : Cllrs Douglass (Chairman), Hallett, Hodge, Ridsdale, and Leith. Mrs V Tookey in attendance as Clerk and Mrs B Isherwood as R.F.O.

1	<b>Apologies for absence</b> – were received from Cllrs Spenceley (due to annual leave) and Sams (due to ill health). In the absence of Cllr Sams, Cllr Douglass took the chair.	
2	<b>Declarations of Interests relating to items on the agenda and dispensations</b> – none were declared.	
3	<b>Minutes of Finance Meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2019</b> – were deferred until next meeting.	
4	<p><b>Financial Matters:-</b></p> <p><u>4.1 Statement of Accounts/payments</u> to be agreed had been previously circulated by the RFO. It was proposed by Cllr Hallett and seconded by Cllr Leith that the cheques be approved for payment. It was also agreed that £50 for wildflower seed for the Clunch Pit be approved.</p> <p><u>4.2 Street Lighting Energy contract</u> – the RFO explained that she had held off signing a contract with Utility Aid (a broker which parish councils are using) as she did not wish to tie Council into a contract with them until she had sought to get a better, and “greener” contract. She has been assured that lights would not be switched off. The RFO would be getting prices tomorrow which she would circulate from OPUS who are substantially ‘green’ energy. Councils are being advised to go for as long a term contract as possible. The RFO aims to have a current quote for the Main Council meeting on the 19<sup>th</sup> November, which will need to be agreed on the night. Committee thanked the RFO for her diligence.</p>	<p>BI</p> <p>BI/ ALL</p>
5	<p><b>Precept Setting</b></p> <p><u>5.1 Timetable</u> – The SCDC request for precept has been received and circulated to all councillors. Clerk has arranged that Council can inform SCDC of precept request following its meeting of the 21<sup>st</sup> January. She had also circulated form to councillors who attend the working group meetings requesting applications from the working groups, for either the November or December meetings of the Finance Committee.</p> <p><u>5.2 Requests for consideration</u> – No requests had been received so far.</p> <p><u>5.3 Items to be costed for Budget setting:-</u> Salaries; Ranger; Website re-design; highway projects year to year; donations to Book Cafe/Village Voice/Mobile Warden Scheme; Conservation Group will be looking for £1250; Neighbourhood Plan costs; Minute book binding; Noticeboards; seats around village (maintenance plan); Knutsford Road Bench; and more substantial dehumidifier for the chapel.</p> <p>The issue of noticeboards was discussed. Currently there are five and three are in very poor condition. Quotes to be obtained.</p>	<p>BI/ All</p> <p>ALL</p> <p>ALL</p> <p>BI</p> <p>VT</p>

	RFO was asked to prepare expenditure for year to date.	BI
6	<p><b>The Limes- SCDC proposal to Transfer to Parish Council</b></p> <p>Cllrs Hallett, Hodge and the Clerk, together with District Cllr Cathcart had met with Kate Swann, the SCDC Service Team leader regarding the premises. SCDC had removed this issue from the November Cabinet agenda as it wished to ask whether the PC would be willing to purchase the freehold. Following a very frank discussion Mrs Swann understood that the PC could and would, only accept a lease. She was to draft a paper which she would circulate to BcK PC putting the case for a lease to be offered. N.B. It was agreed that her letter together with Cllr Hodge's paper be considered at the November Full Council meeting.</p>	

**Date of Next Meetings: – 2019** 3<sup>rd</sup> December

**2020**

7<sup>th</sup> January 4<sup>th</sup> February 3<sup>rd</sup> March 7<sup>th</sup> April 5<sup>th</sup> May 3<sup>rd</sup> June 7<sup>th</sup> July