



Minutes of the meeting of Handforth Parish Council
Finance Committee held on Tuesday 15th January 2019 at
6:45pm, The Youth Centre, Old Road, Handforth.

Present: Cllr Burgess
Cllr Samson
Cllr Smith (Chair of the Finance Committee)
Cllr Sullivan
Cllr Thompson
Cllr Tolver

Also present Mr Comiskey Dawson - Parish Clerk.
Four members of the public.

19/02/1 To receive apologies for absence.

None.

19/02/2 To note Declarations of interest and requests for dispensation to discuss, or discuss and vote on a matter in which a Member or co-opted Member has a Disclosable Pecuniary or non-pecuniary interest (DPI).

Cllr Thompson declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 19/02/8 as a former member of HMES and; and made a request for dispensation to vote on the item, this was granted.

19/02/3 Open Forum- Comment and questions concerning items on this agenda may be put to the Council by the public during this period. Matters which, in the Chairman's view require debate and/or a discussion will be referred to the next Committee/Council meeting, as appropriate. The Public Forum is restricted to 15 minutes, unless the Chairman allows otherwise.

None.

19/02/4 To approve and sign the minutes of the Handforth Parish Council finance committee meeting of 13th November 2018.

Cllr Sullivan proposed, seconded by Cllr Tolver to approve and sign the minutes of the Handforth Parish Council finance committee meeting of 13th November 2018.

Resolved: Unanimously.

19/02/5 Recommendations for expenditure:
a) To retrospectively approve the following items:
None.

b) To consider any other recommendations/requests:
None.

19/02/6 To approve the Quarterly Income and Expenditure accounts for Q3 2018/19.

Cllr Thompson proposed, seconded by Cllr Sullivan to approve the quarterly Income and Expenditure accounts for Q3 2018/19.

Resolved: Unanimously.

19/02/7 Report from relevant councillor regarding Internal Controls for quarter 3 2018/19.

Cllr Smith informed members that he had completed the Q3 2018/19 internal control audit; he reported that everything had balanced, with the exception that the petty cash was 11p up.

19/02/8 To consider a grant application received from the HMES totalling £1,000.00 towards facilitating easier deployment of carriages and locomotives for the miniature railway in Meriton Road Park via a crane system, and make recommendations to full council.

Cllr Tolver raised a point of order in that he felt that the grants awarding process had not been followed correctly. In that at after collation of all the information, two councillors would meet with the applicant before the application went to the finance committee. Councillors and the clerk reviewed the adopted grants process for HPC from the grants awarding policy. The clerk was of the opinion that the process had been followed correctly and was in line with five previous grant applications since the adoption of the policy.

Cllr Tolver enquired as to the nature of the six digit code preceding the deposit of amounts into the HMES bank account and was concerned that these were other bank accounts. Cllr Smith confirmed that these were in fact the branch sort codes used to deposit cash into the account.

Cllr Thompson noted that he felt strongly that open questions and debate in council was important in determining grant applications. The clerk concurred that grant applications should be discussed by councillors at their public meetings.

Cllr Thompson noted that the group did not present audited accounts. The group had informed HPC that they did not have audited accounts; however, they did provide their last two years bank statements.

Cllr Tolver raised his concern that this was not a community group, but was a hobby group. Cllr Smith noted that the dictionary definition of a community group was “a social group of any size whose members reside in a specific locality, share governance, and often have a cultural and historic heritage” and “a social, religious, occupational or other group sharing common characteristics or interests”.

Cllr Thompson stated that he felt HPC should not fund this.

Cllr Samson proposed, seconded by Cllr Burgess that the Parish Council finance committee recommend this grant to full council for approval – totalling £1,000.00.

Motion Carried: Four in favour and two against.

19/02/9 Notices and Correspondence.

None.

The meeting closed at 7:30pm.

Ashley Comiskey Dawson
Clerk to Handforth Parish Council
15th January 2019