

BENSON PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Hall, Sunnyside, Benson, Wallingford. OX10 6LZ
Tel: 01491 825038 e-mail: bensonparish.council@virgin.net

Minutes of the Benson Parish Council Finance Committee held on On Tuesday 17th November 2015 at 7:30PM in the Parish Hall Lounge

Present:	Cllr P. Peers (part)	(PP)
	Cllr J. Fowler	(JF)
	Cllr R. Jordan	(RJ)
	Cllr T. Mcteaugh	(TM)
	Cllr P Baylis	(PB)
	Cllr M Winton	(MW)
Proper Officer:	Anna Field	(RFO)

Cllr J Fowler took the Chair of the meeting.

1. **Apologies** – None
2. **Declarations of Interest** – None declared
3. **Public Session** – There were no members of the public present.
4. **Minutes of the last meeting** – The minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting held on 20th October 2015 will be signed at the next Benson Parish Council meeting on 27th November 2015.
5. **Update of Standing Orders and Finance Regulations:**
Mrs T Ingham has submitted updated Finance Regulations for review. As these are lengthy documents RFO to print and circulate to all councillors. Discussion deferred to next Finance meeting. RFO
6. **Investments:**
RFO has started the process to open a Nationwide 1 year Business Saver account pending approval from Full Council. Funds will be transferred once the account is operational. RFO
7. **Grant Application Offer from SSE:**
The grant application from SSE has been refused due to the level of reserves held by the Parish Council
8. **Financing of Parish Hall Doors:**
SODC are currently offering grants for capital works subject to a number of conditions. The closing dates for grant applications is 27 November 2015 with funds allocated in February 2016 for works commencing after April 2016
Cllr Winton to speak to Carole Cumming at SODC to obtain full details and submit an application with RFO assistance RFO
At the Halls meeting on 15th Oct it was resolved the quotes and grant info would be submitted to Finance; "It was unanimously resolved that the provision of grants for the new parish hall doors would be investigated and then passed with the quotes and information on grants to finance for a funding review." MW
9. **Removal of Council Tax Reduction Grant:**

This grant has been given to Parish Councils in the past to compensate for a tax base that may be depressed by assistance given to lower income households in the Parish. In Benson in 2015/16 this amounted to £3147 or 3% of the Precept. The grant has been stopped and the lost funds will need to be found elsewhere

10. **Membership of External Organisations:**

RFO has received a request for the Council to join the River Thames Alliance at a cost of £25. This has already been approved at Full Council on 22nd October 2015 as part of the Post List.

RFO membership of the SLCC has expired. The SLCC run many valuable courses and provide a free advice service on subjects such as VAT and legal issues. Renewal will cost £149 plus £12 as a first joining fee (due to RFO personnel change)

RFO

Recommendation: That SLCC membership is renewed for RFO at a total cost of £161

11. **VAT on Developments:**

RFO is due to attend a dedicated VAT course on 18th November 2015 and will prepare a summary guide for Councillors

RFO

12. **2016/17 Budget and Precept;**

The 2016/17 budget sheets were examined and a number of changes were made. RFO to circulate the amended sheets asap ready for the next Finance Meeting on 1st December

RFO

13. **Any Other Items to Note or for the Next Agenda.**

None reported

14. **Date of Next Meeting.** 1st December 2015.

Anna Field Responsible Finance Officer 17th November 2015