

BENSON PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Hall, Sunnyside, Benson, Wallingford. OX10 6LZ
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Minutes of the Benson Parish Council Finance Committee held On Thursday 11th August 2016 at 7:00PM in the Committee Room

Present: Cllr P. Peers (PP)
Cllr J. Fowler (JF)
Cllr T. McTeague (TM)
Cllr P Baylis (PB)
Proper Officer: Peter Eldridge (CLK)

1. **Apologies.** All members were present.
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 19th July 2016 were signed at the Benson Parish Council meeting on 28th Jul 2016.
5. **To discuss the lease of the Salt Store.** Cllr J Fowler reported that the valuation of the salt store land had been sent to OCC. Cllr Fowler continued that at one time Benson parish council had applied to lease the 2 triangles of land in the area of Rivermead and along the Preston Crowmarsh Road and the slip road leading to it. After a short discussion it was agreed that Cllr Fowler should respond to OCC informing them that Benson Parish Council would like to pursue the lease. CJF
6. **Fire Regulation Compliance Works budget allocations:**
 - a. Cllr P Peers Informed members that the full costs of fire compliance works for the parish and youth halls would be in the region of £15000 + VAT. Items requiring urgent attention include fire alarm system for the youth hall, fire retardant curtains for the parish and youth halls, a fire alarm warning auto dialler, update for the emergency lights, fire signage and auto door closers.
 - b. Cllr Peers noted that the quote to replace the fire doors in the parish hall (current office door) and youth hall (kitchen door) that had been converted to stable door was too high. It was agreed that the clerk and halls manger should get additional quotes. CLK
HMG
 - c. It was agreed that the Church Trustees should be made aware of the fire risk assessment for the youth hall and Cllr J Fowler agreed to inform them. CJF
 - d. Cllr Peers briefed members on the breakdown of the costs and after a brief discussion it was agreed to make a recommendation to full council:
 - i. **Recommendation to Full Council that £13000 +VAT Be allocated to the Fire Regulation compliance works from the Youth Hall replacement budget and Parish Hall regeneration budget.**
7. **Giant Hogg Weed Budget Allocations.** After a short discussion it was agreed to make a recommendation to full council:
 - a. **Recommendation to Full Council that £5000 +VAT is allocated for the eradication of Giant Hogg Weed infestations at Millbrook Mead and**

adjacent to the Cuckoo Pen from the tree maintenance budget.

8. **Allotment emergency water leak repairs budget allocations.** Cllr P Peers noted that the funding for the emergency water leak on the allotments need to be assigned to a budget. It was agreed that a recommendation should be made to full council:

a. **Recommendation to Full Council that £1072 +VAT be allocated to the emergency water leak repair at Benson allotments from the Village maintenance and equipment budget.**

9. **Hall Hire – Regular User rates.** Cllr T McTeague reported that review of the hall hire regular user's rates was ongoing and the report was deferred to the next finance meeting.

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

a. Cllr T McTeague asked if there had been any response to the advert for a cleaner. Clerk answered he was aware of a response from the window cleaner contractor and had responded to an email enquiry with a reply that included an application form and job description.

b. Cllr P Peers noted that the clerk had asked if he should submit a parish note to the Benson Bulletin on the requirement for a replacement parish clerk for November 2016. It was agreed that the clerk should circulate the advert to the fiancé committee who would respond by email.

CLK

11. **Date of Next Meeting.** 13th September 2016

P Eldridge
Parish Clerk
15th August 2016