

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Finance Committee
held at Bishopstoke Methodist Church
commencing at 8:25pm on 8 February 2022**

Present: Cllrs Parker-Jones (Chair), Dean R, Thornton and Tidridge

In Attendance: Mr D Wheal (Clerk to Bishopstoke Parish Council)

Public Attendance: 0 members of the public were present.

FIN_2122_M04/

Public Session

30 Apologies for Absence

30.1 Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Winstanley.

31 To adopt as a true record, and sign, the Minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on 12 October 2021

31.1 The Minutes of the above meeting had been circulated prior to the meeting.

31.2 Proposed Cllr Tidridge, Seconded Cllr Dean, **RESOLVED** unanimously that the minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on 12 October 2021 be adopted as a true record.

33 Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensations

33.1 No declarations of interest were made.

34 To approve reports on Council finances

34.1 The RFO report, payments lists, budget monitoring reports and statements of accounts had all been included with the document pack for the meeting. The Committee noted the RFO report.

34.2 Proposed Cllr Tidridge, Seconded Cllr Thornton, **RESOLVED** unanimously to approve the reports on Council finances.

35 To note the outcome of the interim internal audit carried out on 18th January 2022

35.1 The results from the interim internal audit had been included with the document pack for the meeting. The Clerk noted that the audit had found no matters to deal with on the part of the Council. The report was noted by the Committee.

35.2 The Committee wished to put on record their appreciation for the work done on the Council finances and financial systems by both the RFO and the Clerk.

36 To consider a grant request from Precious Steps Pre-School

36.1 Details of the grant request had been included with the document pack for this meeting.

36.2 Concerns were raised as Precious Steps is a Limited company and the Bishopstoke Parish Council grant awarding policy does not currently allow awards to be made to such companies. The Clerk noted that the General Power of Competence would allow the Committee to allow this grant but that amending the grant policy may be a better option. The difference between Limited companies was discussed.

36.3 Cllr Thornton asked for more information on which type of Limited company Precious Steps Pre-School is – Limited by guarantee or by shareholder – as companies limited by guarantee are usually either charities or non-profit organisations. Cllr Tidridge informed the Council of another type known as “Community Interest Companies”. Cllr Tidridge offered to help the Clerk gather more information about Community Interest Companies generally and Precious Steps specifically.

Action: Clerk and Cllr Tidridge

36.4 Proposed Cllr Tidridge, Seconded Cllr Dean, **RESOLVED** unanimously that the Full Council be asked to amend the grant policy to include “Community Interest Companies”, and that a decision on the Precious Steps grant request be deferred to allow this change and for more information to be gathered.

37 To consider a grant request from Challengers

37.1 Details of the grant request had been included with the document pack for this meeting. The Clerk provided further information for the Committee as to the purpose of the funding – to pay for one space for one week at one of the Challengers locations.

37.2 Proposed Cllr Tidridge, seconded Cllr Dean, **RESOLVED** unanimously that the Council grant £916 to Challengers.

38 Date, time, place, and agenda items for next meeting

38.1 The next meeting of the Finance Committee will take place at 7:30pm on Tuesday 12th April at the Bishopstoke Methodist Church.

There being no further business, the Chair closed the meeting at 8:45pm

Chair's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Clerk's Signature: _____ Date: _____