

**BRANDON & BYSHOTTLES PARISH COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS**  
**6 GOATBECK TERRACE, LANGLEY MOOR, DURHAM**  
**ON WEDNESDAY 4TH SEPTEMBER 2013, AT 7.00 PM**

**PRESENT**

Councillor Grantham (in the Chair)  
and Councillors Akins, Mrs Akins, Bell, Chaplow, Mrs Gates, Jamieson, Mrs Leckenby,  
Nelson, Taylor, Turnbull and Mrs Wharton

**Fin. 16      DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**Fin. 17      APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Jones.

**RESOLVED:** To receive the apology.

**Fin. 18      ACCOUNT BALANCE AT 31ST JULY 2013**

Approval was requested for the account balance as at 31st July 2013.

**RESOLVED:** To recommend approval of the balances at 31st July 2013.

**Fin. 19      ESTIMATES/ ACTUALS AS AT 31ST JULY 2013**

Approval was requested for estimates/ actuals as at 31st July 2013

**RESOLVED:** To recommend approval of the estimates/ actuals at 31st July 2013.

**Fin. 20      WARD ESTIMATES/ ACTUALS AS AT 31ST JULY 2013**

Approval was requested for ward estimates/ actuals as at 31st July 2013.

**RESOLVED:** To recommend approval of the ward estimates/ actuals at 31st July 2013.

**Fin. 21      REVIEW OF ALLOTMENT RENTS**

The Clerk presented a report to Council on the allotment rent review.

**RESOLVED:** To recommend that the rents remain at £32 for year commencing 1st April 2015.

**Fin. 22**      **DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL - MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLANNING & 2014/15 BUDGET SETTING**

Information had been received from Durham County Council informing the Parish Council of the likely impact of the Localisation of Council Tax Support Scheme up to 2017/18. This shows a possible reduction in support grant payments to the Parish Council of a total of £10,431 over the next 4 years. The forecasted decrease in tax base for 2014/15 will also impact on the Council's tax raising capacity together with the possibility of the Government extending Council Tax capping to Town and Parish Councils.

Members raised their concerns over the reduction in income to the Parish Council and its potential effect on Council Tax levels.

**RESOLVED-** To take the information into account during the Council's budget setting process.

**Fin. 23**      **UPDATE FROM LAST FINANCE MEETING**

The Clerk presented a report on options available to the Council for investment of the Parish Council's surplus balances. Particular reference was made to the Public Sector Deposit Fund which was set up in 2011 following the Icelandic banking crisis. The fund interest rate compares favourably with the Council's instant access account, but the main benefit is that the fund's investments are made over a number of different banks, which means that the risk is spread.

**RESOLVED:** To recommend that the Council makes an initial deposit of £25,000 to the Public Sector Deposit Fund and review in 6 months.

**Fin. 24**      **PLAY AREA, BROOMPARK**

The Clerk reported that, following the site visit at the above Play area in August, an indication of prices for replacement of equipment had been received from Durham County Council. The Clerk informed the Members that until Durham County Council's Play Strategy was complete, an embargo on refurbishment of play areas was in place, unless the Parish Council agreed to take on responsibility for the play area.

**RESOLVED:** To agenda the item for September's full Council meeting.

**Fin. 25**      **PROVISION OF DOG BAGS**

The Clerk reported that approximately 76,000 dog bags had been issued throughout the Parish since April 2013.

**RESOLVED:** To place a further order for dog bags to take account of increased demand.

