

**BRANDON & BYSHOTTLES PARISH COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS**  
**6 GOATBECK TERRACE, LANGLEY MOOR, DURHAM**  
**ON WEDNESDAY 8TH JANUARY 2014, AT 7.00 PM**

**PRESENT**

**Councillor Grantham (in the Chair)**  
**and Councillors Bell, Jamieson, Nelson, Mrs S Nelson, Mrs Rodgers, Taylor, Turnbull**  
**and Mrs Wharton**

**Fin. 27        DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**Fin. 28        APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs Akins, Mrs Chaplow, Mrs Gates, Jones and Mrs Leckenby.

**RESOLVED:** To receive the apologies.

**Fin. 29        ACCOUNT BALANCE AT 30TH NOVEMBER 2013**

Approval was requested for the account balance as at 30th November 2013.

**RESOLVED:** To approve the balances.

**Fin. 30        ESTIMATES/ ACTUALS AS AT 30TH NOVEMBER 2013**

Approval was requested for estimates/ actuals as at 30th November 2013.

**RESOLVED:** To approve the estimates/ actuals.

**Fin. 31****WARD ESTIMATES/ ACTUALS AS AT 30TH NOVEMBER 2013**

Approval was requested for ward estimates/ actuals as at 30th November 2013.

It was proposed that the unspent budget on environmental improvements for Brandon Ward be used to clear the shrubs around the Miners Wheel at Brandon Community Hall and to replace with flowerbeds.

**RESOLVED:** To approve the ward estimates/ actuals at 30 November 2013 and to arrange for work to be carried out at Brandon Community Hall.

**Fin. 32****BUDGET 2014/ 2015**

The Members considered the draft budget report and appendices for 2014/ 2015. The Clerk informed the meeting that the quotation for installation of flowerbeds at appropriate village entrances across the Parish had now been confirmed by Durham County Council at £4,855.47.

- To keep in reserve £11,700 for future election costs and to include £3,000 in 2014/15 budget to add to this reserve or for any bye- election.
- To support Brandon Community hall with a contribution of £5,000 to be taken from Central Fund
- To keep in reserve £20,000 towards assistance with community projects across the Parish, each project to be considered on its merits.
- To approve and accept the quotation from Durham County Council for installation of flowerbeds, funding to be taken from Central Fund.
- To continue to use Onguard Executive Chauffeur Services for transport to civic functions
- To utilise the Community Highways Worker on cutting grass around headstones in Meadowfield cemetery and other cemeteries within the Parish, using Durham County Council equipment.
- To include an amount of £1,000 in the contingency budget for possible future purchase of lawnmower
- To keep in reserve £2,000 for projects related to the centenary of World War 1.
- To hand back land at Cherry Park, Brandon to Durham County Council
- To discuss the issue of pest control on allotments at the next Allotment Committee meeting in March
- To continue to provide 'dog poo bags' free of charge, but to monitor the demand for these.
- To increase the income to wards to £4.08 per elector.
- To further investigate the opportunities for fundraising through grant applications.

**RESOLVED:** To recommend approval of the budget taking account of the above recommendations.

**Fin. 33      WARD BUDGET 2014/2015**

The Members considered the draft ward budget for 2014/15 and

**RESOLVED:** To recommend approval of the budget.

**Fin. 34      ACCOUNT PROJECTIONS 2014/2015**

Members considered the account projections for 2014/ 2015, which would be amended to take account of alterations to budget.

**RESOLVED:** To recommend approval of revised account projections.

**Fin. 35      PRECEPT 2014/2015**

Members discussed proposals for the precept taking account of the possible introduction of capping to Parish and Town Councils.

**RESOLVED:** To recommend that the Council declare a precept of £145,160 for 2014/15.

The meeting closed at 8.20 pm.

Signed .....

Date .....