

Minutes of the Admin and Finance Sub-Committee meeting held on Thursday 8th May 2014 at Escrick Village Hall

Present: Cllr J Goode
Cllr S Cunningham
Cllr M Luscombe
Cllr E Casling (Chairman)

Clerk Mrs L Reader

1. To discuss the Year End Accounts

The Chair thanked the clerk for the amount of work that had gone into the accounts. The Parish Council's Year End Accounts were examined by the sub-committee in detail.

A question was raised about how we would show the contingency fund that the Parish Council have included in this year's budget and the Clerk agreed to ask the internal auditor about this during the internal audit.

Recommendation:-The Admin and Finance Sub-Committee recommend to the full Council approve the accounts at the meeting on 12th May 2014.

2. To discuss the Invoice from the External Auditor, Littlejohn

Following the last full council meeting, the Chairman had sent a letter to the External Auditor to query the amount of the invoice which seemed disproportionately high given the size of the Council's precept. The Chairman read out a response from Littlejohn in answer to this letter which explained in detail how much work the auditor had done and how much they had tried to minimise the amount of work they had to do to answer the complaints from the parishioner. The Chairman also read out the details of an email from the S151 officer (the Responsible Financial Officer for Selby District Council) who agreed that the cost seemed high but that the public had a democratic right to examine a public authorities accounts.

The possibility of complaining about the cost to the Audit Commission was discussed but the Clerk added that the External Auditor had mentioned in a telephone conversation on the matter that she had actually not billed for the total number of hours spent and that she had proof of that. Therefore, in fact, the Audit Commission would find that the invoice was lower than it could have been. The S151 officer provided a table of charges which showed that Littlejohn was actually one of the cheaper auditors.

Recommendation:- The Admin and Finance Sub-Committee recommend that the Littlejohn invoice be paid.,

3. To discuss the Invoice from Northern Power Grid for the streetlight outside Alleyway House

Once again, it was felt that all possibilities had been investigated on this issue; the insurance company would not pay out for it and the motorist who caused the damage was no longer living in the property.

The Clerk agreed to contact the insurance company to increase the amount that each of the bracket lamps were insured for as they are currently under-insured which is why the Parish Council cannot claim for this damage/repair. The Clerk suggested asking them to quote for an increase in the amount insured for each of these lamps to £1500 which would cover the cost of disconnection and repair in the event of a similar incident in the future. The Clerk will report back to the full council at the next meeting.

Recommendation:-

- 1) That the invoice for this lamppost be paid
- 2) That the insurance policy cover for the bracket lamps be increased to cover their replacement amount

There being no further business, the meeting was closed.

Approved as a correct record on 12th May 2014