



Ashington Parish Council

Finance Committee Meeting

Minutes of Ashington Parish Council Finance Committee Meeting held at 8.15pm on Wednesday 16th April 2014

Present: Councillors B S Norton, K Wood, M Woolley and R Brennan
Apologies received from Councillors N Clark & N Carver (personal commitments) & Parish Clerk K Dare (holiday)
Members of the public – 0
Declarations of Interest - None

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss and approve the accounts as prepared by the Clerk for the financial year (2013/2014). The Clerk had briefed the Chairman on the accounts and explained that the Internal Auditor would be examining the accounts on 29th April.

The Committee approved the accounts and recommends them to the full Council for acceptance at the May meeting.
It was agreed that, subject to discussion with the Internal Auditor, the Council should:

1. write off the outstanding balance with Singer & Friedlander bank; with any future recovery going into exceptional income items; the reason being that the Council is unlikely ever to receive more than a small percentage of the outstanding balance and its inclusion in the balance sheet creates a false impression of reserves and financial viability. Also the Council has recovered most of its capital with the lost funds being largely unpaid interest accrued.
2. write off up to £26k of older and non-functioning assets; the reason being that as the Council is unable to depreciate assets over their lifetime as any normal company would, it now has a number of old or non-functioning assets that are on the books at their original purchase cost; this is felt to be unrealistic, and creates a false impression of the worth of the PC as these assets would never realise any value in the event of the need for disposal. A list of proposed assets will be sent to the Clerk for discussion with the auditor); the Council may need to check that by writing off the asset it still retains sufficient public liability cover.

The accounts will be presented to the full Council on 2nd May for approval before being sent off to the External Auditor.

Meeting finished at 8.35pm

Signed.....

Date.....