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Minutes of the meeting of the Finance Virtual Committee held on the 6th October 2020.

Present: Derrick Folbigg (Chair), Graham Pendrey, Di Ames, Ann Lovesey MBE

Apologies: None

Clerk: Joanne Lee

MINUTES

1. To receive and approve apologies for absence.

None.

2. Declarations of interest in any matter – being prejudicial or personal.

None.

3. Discuss and agree home working allowance for Clerks.

Louise Ashmore advised the following information.

The Government has increased the sum that may be paid an allowance for working from home, *tax free*, without keeping any records. As from 1st April 2020 the tax free sum has increased from £4 per week (£18 per month) to £6 per week (£26 per month). <https://www.gov.uk/expenses-and-benefits-homeworking/whats-exempt>

Clerk advised Councillors that NALC had recommended a national salary award (scale 17 - £12.35 - £12.69).

The Finance Committee discussed the working from home allowance, tax free for clerks to work from home and unanimously agreed to recommend to the full council that £6.00 per week, backdated to 1st April should be paid for as long as the home working continues.

They also wish to recommend to the full council that the clerks pay award of 2.75%, backdated to 1st April 2020 should also be paid.

Action Clerk to put the Finance Committee recommendations to the Full Parish council meeting.

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4. Discuss and approve hourly rate for handymen contractors.

The Clerk advised the Councillors that the Great Barford handyman is currently on £11.50 per hour for handyman contracts. This is below the normal handyman rate.

Average rates for handyman vary between £12 - £17 per hour.

The Parks and Open Spaces Committee discussed and agreed a new hourly handyman rate of £14 per hour.

Action `Clerk to put the Finance Committee recommendations to the Full Parish Council.

Signed: _____ **Date:** _____

Initial:.....