

Minutes of the Meeting of Belbroughton Parish Council held in the Jubilee Meeting Room at Belbroughton Recreation Centre on Monday 1st July 2013

Present: Cllrs K Green (Chair), J Bradley, C Hine, A Hood, A Ince, J Kitson, A Mabbett, S MacDonald, D Roberts, and C Scurrall.

In attendance: Mrs C Limm, Clerk; District Councillor Brian Lewis, County Councillor Rachel Jenkins, and 7 members of the public also attended.

191/13 Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs Dalziel, Jones and Shotton. District Councillor Janice Boswell also sent her apologies.

192/13 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Kitson declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in relation to discussion of the grant application by the Belbroughton Tennis Club.

Cllr Bradley declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in the discussion relating to Little Bell Hall Pool and the land on Drayton Road adjacent to his house. The Council had granted a dispensation to enable him to take part in discussions.

193/13 Minutes of previous meeting

The Minutes of the meeting held on 3rd June 2013 were approved. The minute book was signed by the Chairman.

194/13 Reports

Chairman's report

Cllr Green said that the Boundary Commission's final recommendations for a new District Council ward including Belbroughton parish, Clent and Romsley demonstrated that it was worthwhile to raise awareness of local issues and encourage people to respond to consultation.

The public meeting in Fairfield about the Veolia planning application had been attended by over 100 people. The Chairman hoped that this would also generate a substantial number of responses to the application from the public.

Cllr Green also noted that the lengthsman had done a good job in refurbishing the bus shelter at the end of Wood Lane, Fairfield.

Planning Committee

The Council noted the Minutes of the meeting on 17th June.

Finance Committee

The Council noted the Minutes of the meeting on 17th June.

Clerk's report

Councillors Roberts and Jones had repaired the play surface at Fairfield Recreation Ground.

Five applications had been received for the Clerk's post. The Appointment Panel would consider these and conduct the interviews. A short Extra-Ordinary Council meeting would be arranged for later in the month to consider the Panel's recommendations.

An Agricultural Holdings meeting had been arranged for 2nd July to consider the draft new tenancy agreement.

195/13 Co-option of Councillor for Belbroughton ward

The Clerk reported that one applicant had withdrawn. Neither of the other two applicants was able to attend the current meeting. The Council decided that the decision should be deferred until the Council meeting being held later in July and that the applicants should be invited to attend this meeting.

196/13 Veolia Planning application

The Council had appointed Elizabeth Mitchell to prepare a draft response to the Veolia application for an Incinerator Bottom Ash processing facility in Fairfield. This draft was based on an analysis of the application documents and also took on board the Council's concerns and the comments made at the public meeting.

The Council agreed that the response covered the key issues very well. A number of amendments were agreed - the main ones being to give the Green Belt issue more prominence, to include reference to the potential flood risk, and to stress the need for independent testing of IBA at the site of production. The Clerk was asked to make the agreed changes and to submit the Council's comments to the County Council. The response should also be copied to the District Council and to members of the County Planning Committee.

197/13 Grant applications 2013/14

Cllr Kitson outlined the Finance Committee's recommendations (set out in paragraph 186/13 of the Committee Minutes of 17th June) for grants to parish organisations in the current financial year.

Maintenance grants

The recommendations were approved by the Council.

Minor grants

The Council also approved the recommendations concerning minor grants and the recommendation that the £200 grant to the CAB should be paid by viring the funds from the Contingency budget. Cllr Scurrrell abstained.

Capital grants

Capital grant applications far exceeded the funds available. The Finance Committee had recommended some funding for all the applicants except the Scarecrow Committee's application for help to purchase a marquee. Cllr Kitson left the room whilst the application from the tennis club was discussed. The Council endorsed the Finance Committee's recommendations.

In relation to the application for funding for a marquee, the Council thought that this raised a wider issue about whether the Council should consider purchasing certain assets as a community resource for use by organisations across the whole parish. It was agreed that this idea was worth exploring as part of a future discussion about parish projects.

198/13 Little Bell Hall Pool

Cllrs Bradley, Dalziel and Roberts had been undertaking a review of potential work at Little Bell Hall pool. The Council had already agreed that it would commission any tree work needed for safety reasons on the Council's land at the pool. The Council also needed to decide how proactive it wanted to be about future management of the area. It could continue to carry out regular inspections and arrange any work required on an ad hoc basis. Or the Council could decide to be proactive in managing the area, for example by doing more tree work to encourage wildlife. Other issues were that at least one tree (marked A on the map provided by Cllr Bradley) on a piece of land that had no clear owner needed to be removed because it was leaning towards the road. A strip of land at the edge of the Council's area (marked C on the map provided by Cllr Bradley) belonged to Roger Hadley. He was willing to be involved in any joint inspections required.

The Council agreed that, before it could decide whether to adopt a management programme, the first step was to obtain some quotes for the potential work. These should differentiate between the necessary work (already approved in principle) and the optional work. The Clerk said that a general tree inspection on the Council's land needed to be arranged and one quote for the work could be obtained as part of this. Quotes should be obtained for the September meeting if possible with a view to work being done in the autumn.

It was agreed that the County Council should be asked to undertake any safety work required on the land with no clear owner. Cllr Bradley agreed to pursue with Wade Muggleton of the Countryside Service in the first instance. (NB Wade Muggleton has since confirmed that the highways department will take action re tree 'A' if it is deemed a threat to the highway).

In relation to the land owned by Mr Hadley the Council concluded that no action was required at the moment. This land was his responsibility but the Council should co-operate if future joint action was required.

A wildlife survey of the area was also suggested. Cllr Bradley agreed to make further enquiries and report back on whether the District, County or another agency might be able to undertake such a survey.

199/13 Council's Annual Report

There were a number of comments on the draft report. The Clerk was asked to revise the document and circulate for consideration at the extra-ordinary Council meeting.

200/13 Scarecrow Committee Request to use Belbroughton Village Green

The Belbroughton Scarecrow Committee had asked the Council to agree that it could erect a sign advertising the Scarecrow weekend on the Green and also that it could use the Green during the Scarecrow weekend. The Council agreed to both these requests with the proviso that the Committee should arrange any necessary insurance cover and clear up after the event.

201/13 Fairfield Villa Football Club

The Council considered the Club's requests to leave 2 sides of rails in place from the start of the football season in August and for the installation of some permanent hard standing around the pitch.

In relation to the rails, the Council's view was that the Recreation Ground should be completely open during the time when the children are on holiday from school except when matches are being played. The Council did not therefore agree to the retention of any rails between matches during the summer months

In relation to the proposal for permanent hard-standing around the pitch, the Council felt that there were similar considerations regarding the openness of the Recreation Ground. It concluded that permanent hard-standing would be too obtrusive a development and therefore the Council did not agree to this proposal.

202/13 Councillors Items

- County Councillor Jenkins introduced herself and said that she was ready to consider any issues that needed to be raised with the County. Cllr Jenkins said that she had been approached by residents about a 'No parking' sign on the green space by the Mearse Lane/Hartle Lane junction; and about speeding along Heath End Road. Members of the Council said that speeding on Heath End Road and in other areas of the parish had been a longstanding issue. Speed surveys on Heath End Road had not demonstrated that there was a speeding issue, but the daily experience of residents was different. Cllr Jenkins undertook to request another speed survey.
- Cllr MacDonald informed the Council about a pending planning application for a new access to the new house behind 23-25 High Street, Belbroughton.
- Cllr Mabbett said that he had received no further information from the County Council about the cost of repairing the VA speeding sign on the Stourbridge Road from the Stoneybridge side of Fairfield. Cllr Jenkins said that the County was no longer responsible for repairing these signs. Cllr Mabbett also mentioned a parked lorry advertising vehicle repairs just after the Stoneybridge roundabout- he undertook to report this to the police.
- Cllr Ince said that cars parked on the pavement outside Fairfield village hall were causing problems- it was suggested that Cllr Ince should approach PC Kelso about this.
- Cllr Hood reminded the Council that he would like the installation of name signs for Bell Heath to be considered as well as the speeding issue in Heath End Road - agreed for the September agenda.
- Cllr Green mentioned a collapsed bank on Bournheath Road- Cllr Scurrrell undertook to approach the householder.

203/13 Parish Council Meeting Room

The Council resolved to exclude the public and the press for this item because of the confidential nature of the business to be discussed.

There were no issues to report in connection with the letting of the meeting room. The lease was currently with the tenant's solicitor for comments. It was agreed that once finalised the lease could be signed by the Chairman and Vice Chairman or Chair of Finance as appropriate unless there were any substantial issues arising that needed to be brought back to the Council for consideration.

The meeting closed at 10.00 pm.

Signed.....Chairman