

## **Minutes of the Meeting of Belbroughton Parish Council held in The Jubilee Room Belbroughton Recreation Centre Monday 7<sup>th</sup> July 2014.**

**Present:** Cllrs. D Roberts (Chair), K Green (Vice-Chair), A Hood, A Ince, T Jones, P Margetts, R Morgan, C Palmer, C Scurrrell and, P Shotton.

In attendance: John Farrell Clerk, 7 members of the public also attended.

County Councillor Rachel Jenkins and District Councillor J Boswell

### **237/14 Apologies**

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs Bradley, Dalziel and Mabbett who were on holiday. Cllr. Margetts had sent apologies but was able attend.

### **238/14 Members Declarations of Interest**

None.

### **239/14 Dispensations**

None requested.

[The Meeting was adjourned for members of the public to speak on any matter of concern relating to the agenda or for future discussion.](#)

### **240/14 Minutes of previous meeting**

The Minutes of the meetings held on 2<sup>nd</sup> June and 16<sup>th</sup> June 2014 were approved. The minute book was signed by the Chairman.

### **241/14 Reports**

*Chairman's Report:* Cllr. Roberts advised that he and the clerk had attended a Calc meeting on Council meetings and participants roles in meetings – the clerk circulated a sheet from Calc on the roles of the Chairman, councillors, the clerk, visitors and the public.

*Planning Committee:* Cllr. Ince confirmed that the main issue had been the response to the Ballast Phoenix Ltd permit application and that this had been submitted. Council noted the minutes of the meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> June 2014.

*Finance Committee:* Cllr. Scurrrell confirmed the process undertaken for the initial grants applications and that Cllrs. had been pressing parish bodies to come forward with further applications. Council noted the minutes of the meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> June 2014.

#### *Clerks Report:*

**1.** Cllr. Bradley & the clerk attended on 26<sup>th</sup> June a Calc session on new model Financial Regulations which Council should consider incorporated into its Financial Regulations. They relate to the repeal of s150(5) Local Govt Act 1972 - regarding the 2 signatures rule for payments which must not be abandoned until robust system of checks were in place. Further discussion on this to be held in the Finance Committee.

**2.** MacMillan Cancer Support had sent a letter of thanks to the Council following the donation of £60 which was the gratuity previously awarded to the footpath wardens whom had requested the funds were sent to the charity.

**3.** NHS Healthcheck Team Worcestershire are offering to visit the Parish to undertake health screening for people 40 -74 . The clerk would investigate whether rooms were required of if this was a mobile service. There could be opportunities to engage with local partners to promote the service.

4. The replacement bench for the site at the Yew Tree Lane & Stourbridge Rd Fairfield junction has been purchased and installed.
5. Future meetings: Calc meeting 7.00pm 8<sup>th</sup> July on Neighbourhood Plans at W.C.C.  
: Bromsgrove District - New Homes Bonus policies 6.30 pm 15<sup>th</sup> July at B.D.C.
6. An Agricultural Holdings Committee meeting would be called with the aim of holding this before the next full Council.
7. A letter of thanks has been sent to Rowberry's Nursery, Chaddesley Corbett following their donation of geraniums for planting in Belbroughton.
8. The Crime commissioner's annual survey is available to complete – the questionnaire had been e mailed to Cllrs. The response deadline is 19<sup>th</sup> Sept so September Council should undertake to approve a response.

#### **242/14 County Councillor Rachel Jenkins**

C.Cllr. advised: Following the County Council buses review the 318 service would be retained. The 197 would cease. A new community transport scheme was being set up by Hagley Parish Council and that Council may approach Belbroughton for a financial contribution.

Introduction of speed limits on Bell Heath Lane and Quantry Lane Bell Heath were in hand and should be confirmed shortly.

County Hall was looking to 'Commission out' some 80% of its remaining services. Following a Cllr. request she would endeavour to detail which services this covered. It was suggested that the Parish Council enquire directly of the County Council.

County Cabinet meetings can be viewed live 'on line' and recordings are available for a period after the meetings.

Her divisional fund this year would be used for safety matters related to Highways and, community transport initiatives.

#### **243/14 Casual Vacancy for Belbroughton ward.**

At the Chairman's request Council agreed to deal with this item ahead of its schedule on the agenda. Council noted that there had been a 'last minute' application received and there would now only be a requirement to re-advertise the position should the candidate be unsuccessful. Council agreed to proceed with the co-option process as advertised.

Sue Pawley was co-opted to the Council. She signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and Undertaking to observe the Code of Conduct and took her place as a councillor.

#### **244/14 The Green Belbroughton**

a. The clerk advised that following the Extraordinary Council meeting 16<sup>th</sup> June 2014 the Council's lawyers were instructed to start work on the 'Letter Before Action' in respect of the trespass onto Council land by the Developer. The lawyer verbally advised the Developer's lawyers of the Council's intent. The Developer and his lawyer had then sought a meeting to discuss the dispute. This meeting was held on 23<sup>rd</sup> June at the Council's lawyer's premises with Cllrs Green, Bradley, Dalziel and the clerk attending. A copy of the lawyers note on the meeting was circulated to councillors. Further to discussions and evidence produced by the Council the Developer acknowledged the boundary to the Councillors' satisfaction. On site marking of the correct boundary had taken place on the Green on 26<sup>th</sup> June which was witnessed by Cllrs. Roberts, Bradley and the clerk. In addition the erroneous red marker posts previously put in by the developer have been removed. Security fencing had been moved from Council land to the Developer's land. Photographic evidence was taken. Council approved a proposal to instruct the Council lawyers to write to the Developer's solicitor now suspending the 'Letter Before Action' and also requesting that the site is maintained in a safe and secure manner on its boundaries.

Council noted that the robust action taken since the trespass occurred had resulted in a satisfactory outcome with the correct boundary now evidenced.

b. Council noted that the report from the professional valuer had not been received and therefore this item could not be discussed. The clerk advised that the firm working for the Council expected that the report would be available in approximately two weeks.

c. Council deferred a decision on further discussions with the Developer and examination of options for changes to The Green until the valuation had been received and assessed.

d. Council approved the holding of a further public consultation on the future of the Green during mid-September, the clerk was asked to book a suitable date with the Church Hall, Belbroughton.

#### **245/14 Finance**

a. Council approved the recommendations of the Finance Committee, outlined in the minutes of the 16<sup>th</sup> June 2014 meeting, for the payment of the maintenance grants, the minor grant and the donation under sec 137. The clerk advised that accounts had been received from the recipients of the maintenance grants.

Maintenance Grants: Belbroughton Church Hall £660.  
Belbroughton Parochial Church Council £1,980  
Belbroughton Recreation Centre £1,100  
Fairfield Village Hall £660.

Minor Grants: Belbroughton Fun Dog Show £200

Special Payment under Sec 137: Citizens Advice Bureau – Bromsgrove £250.

Council also approved the further recommendation to extend the expiry date for Capital Grant applications to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2014 since there had been no applications received by the prior June expiry date. It was noted that the 'Grants Working Group' - Cllrs. Scurrall, Mabbett, Dalziel and Morgan would require to meet between 1<sup>st</sup> Sept and 14<sup>th</sup> September to review applications and to report back recommendations to the Finance Committee on 15<sup>th</sup> September.

Cllr. Green requested that a close examination of how the beneficiaries of the maintenance grants utilised their funds was undertaken prior to the setting of the Council budgets for grants for 2015/16.

b. Council delegated to the next Finance Committee the decision on where to invest £45,000 of Parish Council funds which should now be invested for a maximum period of 1 year. The clerk and Cllrs. would bring forward suggested savings accounts to the Finance Committee for consideration.

#### **246/14 August Meetings**

Council agreed to hold Planning and Finance Committee meetings on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> August – venue Belbroughton Recreation Centre. The Planning Committee will only be called if there are applications requiring a response to the County or District Councils.

#### **247/14 Annual Parish Report**

Council approved the report and the communication flier after a number of amendments were agreed. An additional A5 size flier would be sent informing residents of the proposed meeting in the Church Hall Belbroughton to discuss the future of The Green.

Council agreed to the existing distribution process. This would require newly elected members to be appraised of the procedures, such would be undertaken by Cllrs. Bradley and Scurrall for Belbroughton and Fairfield wards respectively.

**248/14 'Trash Screens' at Belne Brook, Dark Lane, Belbroughton**

Cllr. Margetts advised that he and the clerk had met with Kirsten Huizer of North Worcestershire Water Management on 5<sup>th</sup> June and after viewing the site she had concluded that the proposed screen would have no benefits. Thus Council noted that the proposed installation is no longer requested by NWWM and so did not require to be considered further.

**249/14 Fairfield Recreation Ground**

Council agreed to discuss this item ahead of item 12 on the agenda. Cllr. Green detailed the issues with flooding at the Recreation Ground. Council approved a sum of up to £500 to investigate the causes of the flooding on Fairfield Recreation Ground specifically involving the lifting of the stones at 'the circle of stones' and examining a possible impermeable membrane that may be removed to improve drainage.

**250/14 Time Limit**

Council agreed to extend the meeting beyond the two hour limit.

**251/14 Removal of sandstone from Belbroughton Recreation ground.**

Council noted that the surplus sandstone sited at the Belbroughton Recreation Centre would have to be removed prior to the Scarecrow Weekend at the end of September. The clerk prior to the meeting had circulated suggested options from Cllr. Bradley. Council approved a proposal to ask the clerk to arrange for the stone's removal by anyone who wished to take it.

**252/14 Speeding in the Parish**

Due to time constraints Council deferred this item until the next Council meeting.

**253/14 Scarecrow Weekend**

Council approved a request from the Scarecrow Committee to place material advertising the Scarecrow Weekend at Silvester's Corner and The Green provided that this met the legal requirements for such materials which includes planning permission where necessary. The Scarecrow Committee would be permitted to use posts but would need to ensure that the ground was restored to its original state when they were removed.

**254/14 Councillors Items**

District Cllr. Boswell : She was pleased to see the new place name signs in Bell Heath and the new bench in Fairfield. She felt the Fairfield war memorial stone required cleaning attention. Council agreed to place this on a future agenda.

Cllr. Palmer advised that the Parish Council was established in 1894 and suggested that some form of celebration of the 120 years anniversary should be considered on a future Council agenda.

Cllr. Green requested that Bernard Edwards be requested to undertake 8 hours of time tidying the Spinney at Fairfield Recreation Centre. This clerk advised this could be accommodated within the existing 'Green Spaces' budget.

Cllr. Margetts advised that the wall above the brook at Springfield Cottages, Dark Lane Belbroughton has now been repaired by the resident.

Cllr. Hood requested that the lengthsman or the District Council clear the footpaths and curbside along Heath End Road Bell Heath.

Cllr. Jones requested that the trimming of Council owned hedges on its boundaries is placed on the next Council agenda.

Cllr. Green requested that a schedule of expenditure split between the two wards was available at the next Finance Committee meeting. This to cover the period since the prior schedule produced in September 2013.

Meeting Closed at 9.50 p.m.

Chairman.....